FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 MARCH 1987

Lebanon

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) offered to release U.S. "spy" Alan Steen in exchange for the release of 100 prisoners held in Israeli jails, AFP reported. In a statement to a local newspaper, the IJLP said it was taking this initiative for "humanitarian" reasons as Steen's health is deteriorating rapidly and "he could die in 10 days." The terrorist group urged the United States to arrange the prisoner exchange, adding that it is ready to list the prisoners it wants released and suggest a means and place of exchange. However, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejected the offer in a statement reported by IDF radio, describing it as "extortion" and affirming that Israel will not negotiate with the IJLP.

In another hostage development, the Organization of Revolutionary Justice (ORJ) released a videocassette of French hostage Jean Louis Normandin, who urged the French Government to "do something" to save him, though he said he is not in danger of execution for the time being, according to Beirut radio. Regarding the fate of Terry Waite, a Tehran radio report from Beirut asserted that the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy was taken hostage by the ORJ and accused of espionage. However, the radio subsequently disclosed that an anonymous caller on behalf of the ORJ denied any ORJ involvement in Waite's kidnapping. Meanwhile, PSP leader Walid Junblatt described as "accurate and reliable" the *Literaturnaya Gazeta* story that Waite is being held in the Iranian Embassy, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

The UAE agency WAM cited an *Al-Ittihad* report that the Syrians have ordered Hizballah to vacate the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks in Ba'labakk by early next week. The former Lebanese Army barracks was taken over by Hizballah in 1983 and has been used as a jail for hostages, WAM noted.

Chadian Conflict

The Chadian Foreign Ministry called on Sudan to "assume its responsibilities" after Libyan forces based in Sudan attacked Chadian areas on 21 and 22 March, Ndjamena radio announced. In a press communique, the Foreign Ministry claimed the Libyan troops in Sudan are being redeployed toward the south directly threatening Chad's security, adding that "the Chadian Army will be allowed to pursue the aggressors wherever they may find refuge."

Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi condemned Libya's interference on Sudanese territory, stressing that if Sudan cannot protect its borders politically through a policy of cooperation and good-neighborliness, "then we must deal with the state of affairs militarily," SUNA reported. According to Al-Mahdi, the Libyan forces arrived in Sudan with a relief convoy without "permission," and then instead of withdrawing to the north, moved west to attack Chad. Al-Mahdi also warned that "a deterioration of security in Chad will involve Sudan in security problems."

JANA's political editor denied Libyan forces are in Sudan, but acknowledged the presence of Revolutionary Democratic Council forces and "some other Chadian detachments." The editor maintained Al-Mahdi's statements were falsely reported by "imperialist forces and their lackeys in the area, primarily the treacherous Egyptian regime" to sow dissent between the two countries, JANA reported.

As for the situation in northern Chad, Libyan aircraft bombed Ouadi Doum 23 March following its capture by Chadian forces the previous day, according to Chadian Embassy officials cited by AFP. No details on the extent of the attack were given, except that one Libyan MiG fighter was shot down. Two MiG-21 aircraft were among weapons captured in the taking of Ouadi Doum, Ndjamena radio reported.

DRA-Pakistan

Afghan aircraft bombed Kurram Agency headquarters in Pakistan 23 March, killing 51 persons and wounding more than 100, Karachi radio reported. Another Afghan air raid killed 22 people and injured 26 in South Waziristan, the radio said, noting that 11 Pakistanis were among the dead.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft attacked Cyrus oil field for a second time on 23 March, setting it on fire, according to an Iraqi military communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio. The planes also hit Ardeshir oil field and its loading platforms, and Khark Island's western jetty. A "giant" tanker was hit and set ablaze off Khark Island, the communique said.

Iran-USSR

The Soviet news agency TASS denied a U.S. television report that the USSR has secret electronic reconnaissance stations in Iran. According to TASS, the manufacture of this "sensation" shows a U.S. desire to "complicate" the Soviet Union's relations with countries in and near the Persian Gulf.

Egypt-USSR

The Soviet Union has agreed to postpone the repayment of Egyptian debts to the USSR for 25 years, MENA disclosed in a report on the economic protocol signed in Moscow 20 March. Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali stated that the protocol will give new impetus to the extension of bilateral ties, TASS noted.

Jordan and the PLO

Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri warned that the PLO's abrogation of the 1985 Amman accord could result in the failure of all efforts to peacefully resolve the Palestinian issue, Radio Monte Carlo reported. However, Al-Masri said he does not believe that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will abrogate the agreement.

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PLO's Ahmad Examines Various Palestinian Issues

JN201145 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 18 Mar 87 p 18

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad by correspondent Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis — date not given]

[Text] [Al-Barqawi] Many rounds of talks are held and end without results. Are we now witnessing another round in a new attempt to heal the Palestinian rift or a continuation of the many previous dialogue sessions?

[Ahmad] This is a new round of the Palestinian national dialogue to reach agreement on the PNC meeting and to restore unity among the Palestinian factions for the enhancement of the confrontation by our people in the occupied homeland against the Zionist occupation and for the enhancement of the struggle of our brothers in the camps for their right to exist. Many dialogue sessions were held in the past, but following the events in the Lebanese arena we saw fit to stop setting conditions on one another and to work, as Palestinian factions, for the unity that has been entrenched through the steadfastness of the fighters. The recent round of dialogue took place to speed up the work toward national unity.

[Al-Barqawi] What is the PFLP's stand on this dialogue, particularly following the recent talks in Algeria between Fatah Central Committee member Khalil al-Wazir and PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash?

[Ahmad] From the very first moment that the Palestinian factions were grouped within the PLO framework, there have been differences of opinion between this or that faction. However, when we used to sit together in the dialogue session that preceded any PNC session, we were always able to reach an agreement on common denominators. This took place in 1974, 1975, 1979, and 1983. Out of a sense of national responsibility and an eagerness to safeguard our joint march, we always emerged with an agreement on an incremental political program.

However, the new elements that emerged, particularly Arab interference, made this or that Arab country demand that the Palestinian faction operating on its territory, as a condition for its presence, put the future of the Palestinian cause in its hands under many pretexts, chiefly that the Palestinian cause is a pan-Arab cause. We are not against this logic, on condition that the other party does not always gain and we lose.

Some Palestinian forces rejected this logic while others responded to it. The PFLP found political excuses drawn from the political and organizational differences to justify its distance from the PLO without dealing with the main cause for its not joining it.

We in the PLO tried to eliminate all these political excuses. This only left the excuse of the Amman Agreement. The PFLP set its abrogation as a condition for entering into any dialogue. This is a logic the PLO rejects. The PLO's march should not be on trial. We tried through the PLO to save its institutions during the period between the 16th and 17th PNC sessions while the others were bystanders. We do not believe any bystander has a right to judge the march and set his conditions. The PFLP must first attend the dialogue sessions, where it can say what it wants and leave the PNC to judge the matter.

We wish the PFLP brothers would overcome the obstacles preventing them from joining us. They are asked to give a clear and explicit reply, because national action cannot suffer conditions or counterconditions. They have the right to submit their political point of view, and the PNC will be the judge. However, if they want to set conditions from afar, the march will proceed without them.

[Al-Barqawi] Does this mean the recent talks between Khalil al-Wazir and George Habash in Algeria were not successful?

[Ahmad] Khalil al-Wazir and George Habash did not achieve tangible results. The PFLP continues to insist on its stand on the Amman Agreement. It calls for a proclamation abrogating this agreement before it joins the talks on national unity.

[Al-Barqawi] What about the talks that took place among five Palestinian factions here in Tunis? Have they produced positive results?

[Ahmad] We are optimistic. Following a lengthy political dialogue during which we took into account all the developments that have taken place since the previous dialogue session, we reached agreement that the situation calls for a new political concept by which all the factions will abide and that will enable us to tackle problems when and if they arise, thus keeping the door open for the PLO's political moves in the next stage. We have reached agreement on nearly every issue, and I hope the final agreement will be reached quickly. In light of this, the PNC could meet no later than the end of April.

[Al-Barqawi] There are differences within the PLO. What are they about?

[Ahmad] The differences have been there since the PLO came into existence. The PLO Executive Committee and its institutions do not have well-defined terms of reference, which necessarily leads to differences of interpretation when a subject comes up for discussion. Attempts have been made to draw up an internal program of action at PNC sessions. But the tasks that the PLO has had to tackle and the failure by PLO Executive Committee members to be present in one location at the same time put the issue on the back burner. Part of the dialogue is on the organizational side; we are trying to draw up a list of potential administrative, financial, and military issues needing prompt attention when secretaries of the committee are not together. An attempt is being made to set up a daily command for Palestinian action, to be followed by formulating plans of action for the command and the military council, and rethinking the formation of the council whose members are appointed. The aim is to increase the monitoring of decisionmaking and widen the circle of the decisionmaking process. This, I believe, will minimize differences.

Factional differences are chronic. They are more a symptom of good health than illness and may be put down to the fact that the Palestinian nationalist movement has drawn upon numerous schools of thought. They will persist and will not go away through

internal plans of action. You find a multiplicity of ideologies in such democracies as France, Italy, and Britain.

[Al-Barqawi] Talk about an international conference has increased of late, especially after the EC declaration. Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] said a few days ago that a political settlement is not at hand, and that in view of the current Arab and world state of affairs, it is not on the horizon. What do you think?

[Ahmad] I would say we are being naively optimistic. Let's suppose for argument's sake an international conference was held. As Palestinians and Arabs we would be at a disadvantage. We would be weak negotiators, unable to make any face-saving gains. Hence, I am not optmistic, and I do not go in for this approach, especially given that our enemy is now at its peak; with its own force and international relations it is in a position to dictate its terms. Talk about the international conference is therefore a mere illusion. At best we will have self-rule. We are powerless to dictate any of our terms. When we discuss an international conference as a way out, it should fit our own perspective. We are hopeful of restored Arab solidarity and stepped-up relations with the Socialist bloc nations. Arab solidarity and friendly relations with the Socialist bloc should enhance our negotiating position. What is required is Palestinian and Arab action on a par with the responsibilities of such a conference.

[Al-Barqawi] What about the recent EC statement?

[Ahmad] I believe the recent EC statement indicates a retreat on stands expressed over the past 20 years. The same group used to call for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from the territories occupied in the 1967 war. Now we are required to negotiate, and consequently conditions will be imposed on us upon withdrawal.

We in the Palestinian arena realize this quite well, and this realization prompts us to work seriously to pave the way for joint Arab action to restore unity and get rid of all forms of division. We should also realize that the U.S. Administration is almost paralyzed and incapable of making a decision on as big an issue as the Palestine question. All that has recently taken place was aimed at pacifying the Arabs following the exposure of the U.S. role in conspiring against them. Hence came Walters' tour in a bid to soften the hostile outlook or the frustration felt by the Arabs and to depict the U.S. Administration as eager to save the face for its friends by talking about the possibilities of holding an international conference and resolving the Middle East question and the Iraq-Iran war. All this is done to gain time, and when this year ends a new year will begin with new pretexts pending a new administration, and then we will be faced with the same fact that we know from all the previous U.S. Administrations.

[Al-Barqawi] What is your attitude toward the dialogue between Palestinian forces and other Jewish forces termed as democratic?

[Ahmad] Our attitude is indivisible. We have rejected such dialogue since a resolution was adopted in this regard at the 15th PNC session in 1977 because we believe the Israelis committed to the presence of Israel with all its racist, colonialist, and Zionist inclinations cannot be democratic. As a Palestinian I do not allow myself to trust a person who seized my home and land and who is living on my ruins. I will not be emotionally carried away if a Zionist speaks romantically about my cause. In this way I will be upsetting the pyramid. The place of the real progressive peson who rejects oppression, racial discrimination, and occupation should not be in the Israeli community. No matter how much he sympathizes with others and claims to be progressive, he is ultimately the one who occupied my land and left me wandering about aimlessly without an identity. This is a clear stand, which we declared a long time ago and on which we continue to insist.

[Al-Barqawi] In talking about Palestinian-Arab relations I prefer to ask no specific question, especially because the current circumstances are difficult and contain many sensitivities.

[Ahmad] This is true. We in the PLO, specifically after 1982, have greatly benefited from the lesson we learned from the policy of polarization that was imposed on us. This policy was proved to be useless and even harmful. We expected those who are with us to stand by our side according to the agreements concluded with us, but we discovered that these same sides stood against us.

Experience has confirmed the failure of the policy of polarization; that is, coming to terms with Israel. We have given some more rights than others, but they failed to abide by the simplest of their duties. Our decision in the PLO is to work for Arab solidarity because Palestine accepts no divided stands. Our relationship with any Arab country is measured by the extent of its support for our just and legitimate struggle to regain our rights.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you believe the PLO sufficiently supports the people's struggle in the occupied territory?

[Ahmad] We in the PLO, as factions, do our utmost and try to provide all that we can. But, as you know, all the countries surrounding Israel do not allow free movement, particularly for promoting the militant process inside Palestine in terms of weapons and training. We need to make further efforts to acheive some simple objectives that would have been achieved with minimum effort had the Arab road been paved. Nevertheless, the PLO and its factions have exerted great efforts by various, and sometimes crooked, ways to provide the requirements of steadfastness. Some of these efforts were through the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee, and some others through the PLO itself in various ways that I prefer not to mention. This does not mean that what we are offering is sufficient, but our circumstances are difficult. I believe that our people in the occupied territory realize the magnitude of the difficulties facing us. Therefore, they have begun to create new means to confront the enemy.

[Al-Barqawi] The joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee has resumed work. Has there been anything new?

[Ahmad] This committee, of which I am a founder, aims to provide as many of the requirements for steadfastness for our people as possible through easy, quick channels. The committee used to meet this purpose. In 1981, obstacles undermined the committee's resources, which at best were no more than $75 million. This sum then began to diminish until it became nil. However, only one Arab country resumed its aid this year, with less than $10 million.

[Al-Barqawi] What is your assessment of this committee's work?

[Ahmad] The committee's work is judged by the huge requirements it has met in the areas of education, housing, agriculture, trade, and road construction. We have not managed to promote the committee's work up to the level of our ambitions. When the aid diminished, the committee's work stopped, and when the aid was resumed, the committee began paying attention again to the technicalities of introducing funds to the occupied territory. The resumption of the committee's work has not been accompanied by any political dialogue since political coordination with Jordan ceased on 19 Februry 1986. It is up to the Jordanian brothers, and we have not insisted on this, although our viewpoint is that any aid to the occupied territory cannot be useful without Palestinian-Jordanian understanding. The Jordanians, however, have a different viewpoint.

[Al-Barqawi] The situation in Lebanon remains the most important issue, particularly following the Syrian forces' entry.

[Ahmad] We do not want the continuation of the collapse Lebanon is now experiencing. We want Lebanon a free, honorable, and independent country away from political, regional, and sectarian conflicts. When we moved out of Lebanon, we stressed the need for security requirements to protect the camps. But the camps were subjected to Israeli and Phalangist attacks. They have also been attacked by the Amal forces and by everyone who has sought a role in Lebanon. We have tried international observers and requested Arab forces, but all this has been rejected by Arab parties. Hence, we supplied these camps with arms only for self-defense. What is taking place now in and around the camps is a settlement of old accounts.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Palestinian Representatives

LD241027 Tripoli JANA in English 0940 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al Marikh 24, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Within the purview of pan-Arab action assumed by the great Al-Fatih revolution and its leader, apart from complementing the meetings already held [word indistinct] a bid to carry out the call of the leader of the revolution to step up the armed struggle action against the Zionist enemy in addition to the purpose of unifying the Palestinian resistance groups, the leader of the revolution met yesterday with the secretaries of these groups.

Earlier he met them so as to strengthen and safeguard their unity to consolidate the action of the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy.

'Arafat Adviser Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC230834 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA) — Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Executive Committee member and political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Cairo this morning.

MENA has learned that Hani al-Hasan is carrying a message from Yasir 'Arafat to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the Palestinian issue.

KUWAIT

Amir Receives Guinean President for Talks

LD221622 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Guinean President Lansana Conte met with the amir of Kuwait at 0930 today at Al-Sif Palace where official talks between the two men were held.

On the Kuwaiti side, the talks were attended by Shaykh Khalid al-Ahmad al-Sabah, minister of the amir's court, [name and title as heard]; Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, chief of the escorting mission of honor and minister of information; and Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs. On the Guinean side, the talks were attended by the Guinean minister of foreign affairs, the minister at the Presidency for plans and international cooperation, the state secretary for higher education, and the governor of the Central Bank.

The minister of the amir's court has stated that the talks covered relations between the two friendly countries and the ways of developing them in various fields, as well as Arab-African relations and Islamic issues and matters of common interest. The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere characterized by understanding and a spirit of friendship.

Meanwhile, the amir will hold a dinner banquet at Al-Salam Palace at 1930 today in honor of Guinean President Lansana Conte and his delegation.

Visit Concludes 23 Mar

LD231033 Kuwait KUNA in English 0902 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Kuwait, March 23 (KUNA) — Guinean President Lansana Conte and the accompanying delegation concluded here today their three-day state visit to Kuwait, which was paid in response to an invitation by H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

During his stay here Conte held intensive talks with Shaykh Jabir and senior Kuwaiti officials on relations between the two countries and means of developing them in addition to global issues of mutual interests, Kuwaiti State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-Aziz al-Rashid stated today.

The Guinean and the Kuwaiti sides hailed the positive results of the Fifth Islamic Conference Summit, held in Kuwait last January, and the Guinean president praised the successful efforts exerted by Kuwait, under the leadership of the amir, for the convention and success of this conference.

The two leaders emphasized the necessity of implementing the Kuwait summit's resolutions.

[Word indistinct] the Iraq-Iran war, the visiting Guinean leader and the amir of Kuwait expressed concern and deep regret over the continuation of this war between two Moslem and neighbour states that are members in the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The two leaders affirmed that they will continue work by all means to encourage and support all efforts made to end this conflict and solve the problems between Iraq and Iran in a just manner that guarantees their rights and dignities.

Conte praised efforts and contacts of the Kuwaiti amir, as current chairman of the OIC, to stop the Gulf war and implement the OIC resolutions concerning it.

On the dangerous Middle East situation the two sides expressed conviction that real, just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East could not be achieved without the Israeli pullout from all occupied Arab lands including Jerusalem and the restoration of the Palestinian national and legitimate rights including their right to establish their independent state on their land under their sole and legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Guinean and the Kuwaiti leaders gave special concern to the situation in South Africa, reiterating their two countries' support to the South Africans, who are struggling to achieve their just rights.

They also affirmed their countries' support to Namibia's independence and condemnation to the aggressive practices of the Government of South Africa against the South African resistance.

The two leaders emphasized the importance of continuing meetings and exchanged visits between the two countries at different levels.

In this regard the Guinean president extended an invitation to the amir of Kuwait to visit Guinea, which was accepted by the Kuwaiti leader. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Interviewed on Ties With YAR, USSR

JN232023 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 Mar 87 p 11

[Interview with PDRY President Haydar al-'Attas by Mahbub 'Ali in Aden on 13 March 1987]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted praising PDRY-UAE relations]

['Ali] Mr President, there are conflicting reports about the Kuwaiti mediation effort. Some people say it is confined to restoring normal relations between both parts of Yemen and others link it to a resumption of the political reconciliation dialogue between the current PDRY leadership and the supporters of former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. We want to hear from you about this Kuwaiti mediation effort.

[Al-'Attas] The brothers in fraternal Kuwait, especially Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, are

indeed always determined to make every possible effort to close Arab ranks, clear the Arab atmosphere, and solve any problem complicating relations among brothers.

Thus, our Kuwaiti brothers are determined, just as we are, to restore relations between both parts of Yemen to what they were before the 13 January 1986 incidents. We in the PDRY have done our utmost to prevent any negative effect of the 13 January incidents on relations between both parts of Yemen, despite the fact a number of the perpetrators of these tragic incidents have fled to North Yemen.

We felt it was natural for our brothers in North Yemen to provide shelter for these people under any circumstances. To show the appreciation of the YSP and governemnt, we issued a general amnesty for all those who were led into these incidents, which constituted a conspiracy against the unity of the party and the people, as well as against the Yemeni people's lives and future.

However, we feel the limits of hospitality have been exceeded. These elements are being given facilities that do not in fact serve the interests of the Yemeni people. On the contrary, they conflict with the agreements signed between the two parts of Yemen.

Therefore, we are eager to see the return of the fugitives [al-haribin] through mutual understanding and coordination with our brothers in the northern part of the homeland, with the exception of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and 47 others not covered by the general amnesty decision.

Let us now go back to the initiative by our Kuwaiti brothers to clear the atmosphere between the two parts of Yemen and to facilitate the return of refugees to their homes and families. That initiative stemmed from the spirit of the general amnesty decision, which provides guarantees that the returnees will not be prosecuted for the acts they comitted and that they will return to their jobs and enjoy their rights and duties under the Constitution.

Of course, such an initiative must take place with the cooperation of our brothers in the North so we can then resume our common unity action, through which we have already achieved a great deal, such as the formation of the Higher Yemeni Council, ministerial committees, and other joint unity committees of the two parts of the homeland.

The work of these committees was stopped by one side after the 13 January incidents. However, we believe that through true and sincere brotherly efforts we can end the deadlock with the full cooperation of our brothers in the North on the basis of agreements reached on the unity process.

['Ali] In light of Kuwaiti mediation efforts, what results were attained in restoring normal relations between the two parts of Yemen and returning the refugees from Sanaa to Aden?

[Al-'Attas] Kuwaiti mediation efforts are under way. We have great confidence in the good efforts being exerted by the Kuwaiti brothers. The Kuwaiti delegation under Brother Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, held several meetings in Sanaa and Aden and formed a good idea about the issue from those discussions. The Kuwaiti brothers are doing their best to make their mediation efforts a success.

['Ali] When will the summit meeting between you and YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih take place? Are you ready to hold this meeting in either Sanaa or Kuwait?

[Salih] We are ready to meet with Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at any place and time. We prefer to meet on Yemeni territory and in any Yemeni city, be it Sanaa or Aden. However, we have no objection to meeting on any Arab land. Kuwait is a fraternal country, and we hold it in special esteem. If Kuwait hosts such a summit, we will be glad to meet with Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih because we feel we must meet with him, as our last meeting took place in Tripoli in June 1986.

We believe we can pursue our unity action. Many topics are on the agenda of the Higher Yemeni Council that need to be discussed to further entrench cooperation and coordination between the two parts of Yemen in political, economic, and social fields, and in all other walks of life, thus paving the way to Yemeni unity, which is our Yemeni people's hope, future, and destiny.

['Ali] What results were attained during the recent visit to Moscow by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general, and what did these results do for the relationship between the USSR and the PDRY?

[Al-'Attas] This visit was an important turning point in relations between the USSR and the PDRY. Relations between the USSR and the PDRY are deep-rooted ones that are constantly developing. The visit by our YSP Central Committee secretary general to the USSR added new bricks to the building of this relationship.

The USSR fully supports our country's efforts to implement economic and social development. The secretary general's visit to the USSR brought about fruitful efforts to enhance these development efforts. [passage omitted]

['Ali] Mr President, efforts are under way to convene an Arab summit conference as a result of a Saudi initiative. Did the Islamic summit in Kuwait with its results constitute a step toward convening an Arab summit? Is the PDRY in favor of the Saudi initiative for convening an Arab summit?

[Al-'Attas] We support the convocation of an Arab summit. We have stated this on many occasions. We believe the current state of affairs dictates convening an Arab summit in the hope of overcoming the many differences that exist among Arab countries and achieving unity of ranks so we can confront the challenges and perils engulfing the Arab nation. [Passage omitted]

QATAR

Amir Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy, Message

JN231347 Doha QNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Doha, 23 Mar (QNA) — His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the Qatari amir, has received a message

from his brother His Excellency Libyan President [title as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message was conveyed by the Libyan president's personal envoy Muhammad Bashir al-Mughayribi during a meeting with the Qatari amir this morning.

QNA has learned that the message deals with the regional situation, the developments in the Arab arena, and ways to achieve Arab solidarity.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Praises Relations With UK, U.S.

LD202240 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1150 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Excerpts] London, 20 Mar (SPA) — The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud has described Saudi-British relations as relations of friendship and understanding in all matters. He said may God preserve him: These relations had begun in the era of King 'Abd al-'Aziz, and they continue to remain firm. [passage omitted]

Here is the full text of the interview the custodian of the two holy mosques gave to the British television network ITN:

[Question] O Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, since my country Britain is preparing to welcome you when you arrive for a visit in a week, I would like to know your view of the relationship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Britain and the West.

[Fahd] I want to say that I am happy to be visiting Britain to meet her majesty, the heir to the throne and the royal family, as well as Prime Minister Thatcher.

I also want to say that relations between Britain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are old; they were established by the late King 'Abd al-'Aziz and have remained firm and strong until this day. It is certain that they will remain firm in the interest of the two countries, because lasting understanding is the principle on which these relations were established, and we continue to observe this principle.

Another matter I would like to add here is that these relations became very strong after the meeting between King 'Abd al-'Aziz and Sir Winston Churchill at the end of the Second World War. Since we had strong relations even before the end of the Second World War, we have always been very eager to view our relations with Britain as relations of friendship and understanding in all matters. I am therefore very pleased to see Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, whom I have met on several occasions, and I will also be happy to talk to her.

[Question] Britain and the United States consider Saudi Arabia a friend in the Middle East and a state with an active influence on stability in the region. King Fahd, how do you regard Saudi Arabia's role in the Middle East?

[Fahd] I want to affirm what I said in the beginning: Relations between Saudi Arabia and the United States and Britain are strong. They consider the Kingdom a friendly state, and no doubt this pleases me. As for Saudi Arabia's role in the Middle East, it does not go beyond that of the leaders of the Arab states together because, as is known, there are integrated links between leaders of the Arab nation. The Arab Gulf States also have political relations organized by the GCC, which has given relations between Gulf States a great deal of continuity, particularly through the annual conferences held in one of the member states.

Let me digress to say that when His Majesty King Abd al-'Aziz met President Roosevelt, he met Mr Churchill at the same time, and from then on relations between the United and Saudi Arabia became stronger and more solid. Incidentally, we have relations of friendship and understanding with the European states and Japan. We always try to have many friends.

[Question] One of the problems facing the Gulf region is the Iraq-Iran war. King Fahd, do you see any hope for an end to this war?

[Fahd] Naturally, there is still hope, because Iran and Iraq are two neighboring Muslim states, and joint efforts are being made by the Gulf States, as well as by the international community and the Security Council. We hope that this war will end with a reconciliation between the two countries. On the other hand, the UN secretary general is making excellent efforts, and we hope that he will continue his good offices.

[Question] Could you please explain some of the pain you feel from this war, and how big the threat of this war is to the rest of the world?

[Fahd] Among the tragedies resulting from this war and its continuation is the fact that human potentials have been wasted, and destruction and ruin have affected both sides. In my view this is the biggest tragedy that a country could suffer. Therefore, when I speak about the efforts for peace and stability made by the UN secretary general or by any state of the world, it means that I am fully convinced that these efforts must be the basis and the foundation for extinguishing the flame of this war.

[Question] We were very pleased by what we saw of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's development in the agricultural and medical fields. I would like to ask the following question: What future does the custodian of the two holy mosques foresee for his country and his people?

[Fahd] First, we should preserve our achievements. Then we should work to develop them, and we should strive to complete the rest so that our country can attain a very good standard in all the fields that benefit its citizens.

Although I believe there are still many matters that need to be completed, I would like to say, however, that what you have seen was achieved in a short time. It was not the government alone that did everything, but the collaboration of the Saudi citizen who joined forces with the state, thus bringing about collective cooperation that pushed our country forward in all beneficial fields. We thank God there are no problems between the official circles and the citizens, because understanding exists.

Again I welcome you to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to Riyadh. We hope that our friends in Britain will have the opportunity to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, because we have many things we would like friends, such as the British, to see in the north, south, east, and west of the Kingdom, and not only in Riyadh; it exists, thank God, in every town. In all parts of the country you will see the same development and the same agricultural, industrial, medical, educational, social, and economic achievements.

UAE

PDRY President Makes Statement, Departs

JN231707 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, March 23 (GNA) — President of Yemen People's Democratic Republic Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas left here today for Doha, Qatar, ending a three-day official visit to the UAE. [Passage omitted]

In a statement to the *Emirates News Agency* before his departure, the South Yemeni leader expressed great satisfaction at the outcome of his visit and talks with the UAE president.

He said, this visit has given us the opportunity to discuss several aspects of bilateral cooperation and ways of strengthening as well as review the current developments on the Arab and international levels with the aim of coordinating our views for the service of our just Arab causes.

He affirmed his country's determination to continue developing the links, friendship and respect between the Democratic Republic of Yemen and the UAE for the sake of achieving peace and stability in the region.

YAR

Moroccan Commerce Minister Meets Prime Minister

JN211503 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, today received Brother Abdallah al-Azmani, Moroccan commerce and industry minister, who is currently paying a visit to our country. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed cooperation in economic, trade, and information fields. They also discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to bolster them. The meeting was attended by Brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wazir, minister of economy, supply, and trade [title as heard] and Standing Committee member, and His Excellency Sa'id Abu Bakr [last name indistinct], the Moroccan ambassador in Sanaa.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN221450 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Abdallah al-Azmani, Moroccan commerce and industry minister, has left Sanaa after a brief visit to our country during which he had talks on bilateral trade with officials of the Ministry of Supply and Trade. Brother al-Azmani told SABA' he discussed ways to step up bilateral cooperation with Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani. He also discussed practical measures to enforce last year's basic agreement between the YAR and Morocco with the minister of supply and trade, he added. The outcome of his visit, the Moroccan minister said, will be felt during the next few months through the exchange of trade and technical experts, as well as through exhibitions of the two countries' products. The minister said he was grateful to Ministry of Supply and Trade officials for their understanding of the principles of bilateral cooperation. He was also grateful to the minister of information and culture who, he said, wants the news media in the two countries to highlight their accomplishments.

On hand at the airport to see off the Moroccan official were Brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wazir, minister of economy, supply, and trade [title as heard] and Standing Committee member; the ministry's under secretary for economy; ministry officials; and the Moroccan ambassador in Sanaa.

Debt Repayment to USSR Postponed for 25 Years

NC232113 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA) — Egypt and the Soviet Union have signed an accord on financial settlements between them. They have also agreed to postpone the repayment of Egypt's debts to the Soviet Union for 25 years. The document was signed for Egypt by Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, who is visiting the Soviet Union at the head of an economic delegation, and for the Soviet Union by the chairman of the Soviet State Bank.

In a statement to be published in tomorrow's edition of *Al-Ahram*, Salah Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador in Moscow, described this accord as important, because it was an obstacle to the promotion of bilateral trade and economic relations. [sentence as received] He noted that the negotiations had taken place in keeping with Egypt's demands and had taken full account of Egypt's current economic circumstances. In addition, both sides drafted guidelines for a trade agreement and long-term payments, including lists of new commodities for export to the Soviet Union. He said the two parties agreed to restore certain goods to the list, such as rugs, furniture, and hides, which were no longer being shipped to the USSR. This followed Dr Mustafa's announcement that the value of the accounting pound sterling will be increased to encourage Egyptian exports.

Further Reportage on Talks

For additional coverage of the talks in Moscow between the delegation led by Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Viktor Dementsev, chairman of the board of the USSR State Bank, including the signing of a bilateral trade accord, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 20 March Soviet Union *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

AL-AKHBAR Links U.S. Credibility, Conference

NC222152 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA) — The newspaper *Al-Akhbar* reports that U.S. credibility in the Middle East has been dealt yet another blow, which follows those resulting from the clandestine arms deal with Iran and the revelation of the secrets surrounding it. The paper comments on reports published the day before yesterday that the U.S. Administration has notified Israel of its intention to assign no special importance to the question of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, and to take no special measures on its behalf. In its Monday editorial, *Al-Akhbar* says that if this report and others broadcast by Israeli radio noting that the U.S. Administration has decided not to send out Richard Murphy, U.S. envoy to the Middle East, are true, the regional peace process will certainly suffer a heavy blow. The paper notes that the majority of parties concerned with this issue have begun to take preliminary action toward the convocation of this gathering. The UN secretary general has announced that he will tour the Middle East in the next 2 months to lay the groundwork for the conference. Concluding its editorial, *Al-Akhbar* expresses hope that reports indicating the conference will not meet prove false.

Ghali Comments on Libyan Defeat in Chad

NC241045 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said the losses sustained by Libyan troops in Chad prove that the Libyan Government's policy does not serve the interests of either the Libyan or Chadian peoples.

Commenting on the fall of Ouadi Doum to Chadian troops, Dr Ghali noted that every honest Arab and African must suffer at hearing of the death of thousands of victims, be they Libyans or Chadians. Dr Ghali renewed his appeal to Libya to stop its aggression against Chad, to withdraw its troops from that country, and to respect its sovereignty and unity. He pointed out that the primary battle for Libyans should be that of economic and social development, not of invasion or control of Chad.

Mubarak Discusses 'Rumors' at Luxor Meeting

NC232002 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Excerpt] After today's inauguration of Luxor Airport following its renovation, President Husni Mubarak met with executive, political, and public leaders in the city of Luxor. Also present at the session were Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture; and a number of other ministers. The president used the meeting to discuss domestic and foreign policy issues. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said President Mubarak received an enthusiastic public welcome, and that he was frank in his treatment of all questions and concerns. Safwat al-Sharif quoted the president as saying: Egypt suffers from many economic problems, as do all the other states in the world. We have launched a plan in which we commit ourselves to securing $3.2 billion worth of loans to help build our infrastructure. This includes electric power, sewage, railway, potable water, and telephone projects. We will also complete the process of renovating old factories and establishing new ones. The information minister remarked: These loans will not be spent on consumer goods, as some people claim. He went on to say that the president dealt with the question of national unity, with rumors spread by certain people about amending the Constitution, and with other rumors concerning pollution. [passage omitted]

Government, Opposition View Sectarian Strife

Interior Minister Comments

NC202235 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) — Interior Minister Zaki Badr has affirmed that the latest incidents of sectarian strife were not arranged or financed from abroad, but were merely internal. He said that all 188 people arrested in connection with these events have been released, except for 17 whom the prosecutor remanded in custody. He noted that no girls were among those detained.

In an interview to be published in the Saturday edition of *Al-Ahram*, the interior minister said these incidents occurred in the following four cities of Upper Egypt: Sawhaj, Bani Suwayf,

Biba, and Dishna. The last two towns fall within the Governorate of Qina. Despite the fact that these episodes occurred in succession, there was no connection between them. He noted that they were directed neither from within the country nor from without. They were the result of tendentious rumors, which had the goal of causing a rift between Muslims and Copts and undermining domestic social peace.

The interior minister added that the number of people arrested for involvement in these incidents was: 154 in Bani Suwayf; 20 in Sawhaj; and 14 in Dishna. Following the investigations conducted by the prosecutor's office, 152 people who took part in the Bani Suwayf incidents have been released, while 2 others remain in custody pending investigation. As for Dishna, the prosecutor is still interrogating the 14 people arrested, 8 of whom are secondary school pupils. Of the 20 citizens detained in Sawhaj, 8, including 2 university students, have been freed by the prosecutor. He explained that the situation is now quite calm and that only 17 of those involved in the latest riots are still being held pending interrogation.

The interior minister pointed out that no one was killed or wounded in these events. As for property, the Al-Qutb Mosque, the Virgin Church, and three shops in Sawhaj were damaged, but no harm was done in either Bani Suwayf or Dishna. Minister Badr noted that three vehicles were damaged in Sawhaj and three others in Dishna, all of which can be repaired. No cars were vandalized in Bani Suwayf.

He went on to say that the criminal laboratory report indicates that the fire in the 183-year-old Al-Qutb Mosque in Sawhaj was the result of a short circuit in an electrical main box opposite the mosque. As for the blaze in the Virgin Church across from the mosque, it broke out after the fire in the mosque began. Some Muslim youths rushed in to take revenge for the fire in the mosque, as they thought their Coptic brothers had deliberately set it alight. This, he specified, was not the case.

The interior minister added that the investigation conducted by the criminal laboratory and the National Center for Scientific Research has revealed the truth about the spray that caused the cross to appear on the clothes of veiled women. According to this research, once stained, some clothes tend to develop a mark that resembles a plus sign. That is how the rumors of the alleged crosses on the clothes of veiled women began. It was these stories that touched off the latest incidents in Bani Suwayf.

'Some Observers' See U.S. Link

JN231040 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 18 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The NPUG General Secretariat has issued a statement to all national democratic forces regarding sectarian sedition. It calls on them to assume the trust of defending national unity to foil a suspect plan, which seeks to abort the masses' movement. The declaration accuses parasitic forces of attempting to spark and rekindle the flames of sectarian sedition.

Some observers have linked the disturbances in Upper Egypt to the visit that the U.S. ambassador paid several weeks before to Asyut and Bani Suwayf. A number of American groups recently conducted a comprehensive social survey there, claiming that it was designed to facilitate a series of cultural and welfare projects in the area.

In the meantime, the security forces are still questioning Robert Shakib, an American tourist who was found photographing mosques and churches and was also discovered last Friday in Jazirat Badran, Shubra, where a fire broke out at dawn near Makarim al-Akhlaq Mosque. The interrogation has established that Robert Shakib came to Cairo on 17 September and left on 20 February for Jordan. He returned to Cairo 3 days later.

Sedition Inspired From Abroad

JN232104 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 Mar 87 p 7

[Editorial: "Seasonal Moves"]

[Text] The fact that attempts to foment sectarian sedition were made in the runup to the elections does not mean the instigators will not try again at some other time. However, we must bear in mind that the recent efforts to stir up sedition were scientifically thwarted, which goes to show that this is the best way of containing such things. For us, the scientific approach does not mean subjecting women's veils to forensic analysis to prove the act was unintentional. We are referring to the rational manner with which the masses reacted to calls for sedition. The individuals who drifted with the current were a minority of those wet behind the ears. As for the more experienced people of both communities, who are in daily contact with each other, they chose to take things easy and relax, supported by our heritage.

Those who know anything about our recent history must conclude that the attempt to sow sedition was inspired from outside our borders. It was a calculated attempt to slander and distort our culture before breaking it down to promote the infiltration of this steadfast people. The masses would then be easy prey, vulnerable to the plots of dismemberment directed against other peoples of the region to redraw the new conspiratorial map, which would place the interests of the Middle East in foreign pockets and coffers.

There is no escaping these plots, which are alien to our civilized and united people, except through unity and a resolve to nip them in the bud. They can also be defeated by taking a rational approach, that is, through a realistic, scientific spirit, with which our people are well endowed, either by education or a distinguished, sound instinct. However, we must also cater to dissenters or sectarians from both sides who may be driven to extremism due to narrow-mindedness or a lack of solid knowledge. We must enlighten and guide them despite their small numbers, as they represent the core of sedition and the prime fuel for foreigners and the covetous. As we saw in Al-Minya in terms of ideal solidarity between enlightened men of religion from both sides, we should make the election season, which is full of activity and effectiveness, an opportunity for enlightenment with a fraternal, rational, and national spirit. This will permit us to absorb and eliminate any extremist feelings within our civilized and cohesive nationalist body.

Cairo Radio on 'Extremism'

NC221822 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "What Do the Extremist Religious Groups Want?"]

[Text] To talk about sectarian strife in Egypt is to use a misnomer and subscribe to a fabrication, as dealings on the basis of religion have been totally unknown in Egypt since the Islamic conquest. What we are actually seeing is, quite simply, the use of religion for political purposes. We do not claim that religion has nothing to do with everyday life and interests. However, what we observe, believe in, and insist on is that religion is a bright ray that lights the way for each citizen on Egyptian soil. If any one group insists on imposing its ideas on the people by force in the name of religion, without discussion but through illogical justifications, this is tantamount to encroachment on freedom and restriction of our people's behavior.

Certain religious groups are trying, through premeditated violence, to get the upper hand in society. They imagine that a shrill voice is capable of frightening some people, silencing others, and dragging still others into their circles. Some people have expressed the view that the spread of religious extremism is attributable to the despair of the young, as if we were living through an inescapable disaster. Others blame it on the defeats inflicted on Arabs and Muslims by their enemies, as if the victory in Ramadan, October, was not achieved by the will of the Egyptian people. However, such individuals have forgotten the real reason why these Islamic groups are moving toward calculated extremism. These groups want to seize power, to establish a system in which they can practice their own methods as a political party wearing the cloak of Islam. Therefore, the manifestations of religious extremism that we see are no more than a technique to mobilize society in preparation for the promised day when these groups seize power.

We have seen that these groups have used two methods to terrorize the public to obtain the silence of society as a whole on their encroachments. The first method entails encouraging close associations with all young Islamic individuals whose political vision differs from that of the religious groups. When these young people are stabbed in an outrageous and terrorist manner, large numbers of people remain silent to keep out of trouble, and others feign collaboration for safety's sake. The second method consists of triggering disputes and creating provocations around mosques and churches, with a view to instigating fanatical behavior. In this way, these groups seek to expand the circle of public violence, and drive the security forces into contact with them. The resulting clashes give them the opportunity to test the extent of their influence and the soundness of their organizations, and ascertain the methods used by the security forces to confront them. The religious groups do not, of course, acknowledge this; they are trying to give the public the impression that they are an influential force capable of imposing its will on everyone.

Indeed, certain political parties in Egypt have fallen into their trap and have begun to make overtures to the Islamic groups. Thus, some parties have seen no harm in selling their slogans for money. One minority party asked a price of 1 million pounds to do just that. However, the religious groups found the cost too high; another party was satisfied with 750,000 pounds.

Therefore, we must view the encroachment of these groups, with their commitment to the calculated disruption of public security, as a matter for the security forces. These authorities alone are legally responsible for the protection of the public and its property from any act of aggression by any individual whatsoever, even if he does wear the cloak of Islam.

Report, Communiques Detail Continuing Fighting

Iranian Tanker Hit 21 Mar

JN231343 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] London, 23 Mar (INA) — The British insurance company Lloyds this morning affirmed that the Iranian oil tanker *("Awaj")* was attacked near the Iranian coast the day before yesterday, Saturday [21 March]. Lloyds said one of the Iranian tanker's crew was killed, adding that the tanker, which is owned by the Iranian Tanker Company, was built in 1975, and weighs 162,046 tons.

An Iraqi military spokesman stated last Saturday that the Iraqi fighter planes dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 0815 [0515 GMT] on Saturday.

Oil Fields, Tanker, Khark Raided

JN231555 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Communique No 2,612 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 23 March 1987]

[Text] The aggressor Zionist Khomeyniites must realize that we shall continue to destroy their economic pillars which they use to finance their war machine for aggression. We will not change our policy of protecting our dear people and defending our pure land until the war ends and a just peace is achieved. Aircraft of our mighty Air Force have carried out the following tasks:

1. At 1447 [1147 GMT] today, our aircraft again attacked the Cyrus oil field to further destroy it, leaving its targets in rubble and in flames.

2. At the same time other aircraft attacked Ardashir oil field and loading platforms in the oil field, setting their targets on fire and turning them into rubble.

3. At 1453 today, other aircraft launched another successful attack on Khark Island's western jetty, destroying it once again to prevent the tyrants from using it.

4. At the same time our aircraft attacked a giant tanker off Khark Island, scoring an accurate hit. Flames were seen rising from the tanker.

5. Our heroic Air Force carried out the following as mentioned in our military spokesman's two statements:

a. At 0900 today, our fighter planes attacked the Nowruz oil field twice, dropping their devastating bombs. They acurately hit their targets, destroying the oil fields rigs.

b. At 0930 today, our fighter planes delivered a devastating blow to the Cyrus oil field, starting fires in the field's installations and rigs. After spreading clouds of smoke several km over the destroyed targets, Iraq's brave hawks returned to the homeland protected by God's care.

God be praised for granting us victory. Blessed be our heroic Air Force, maker of epics everyday. Blessed be Iraq's leadership, hawks, officers, and other ranks.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command 23 Mar 1987

Communique No 2,613 Details Action

JN231816 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Communique No 2,613 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces are continuing their combat oeprations, inflicting further losses on the Zionist Khomeyniites as follows:

1. Our heroic Air Force has carried out 94 combat missions to accomplish the missions stated in our Communique No 2, 612 issued this afternoon and to carry out other missions in the operations sectors. The brave hawks of the air returned safely to the homeland protected by god.

2. In a new abortive attempt, the enemy sent a number of its boats with personnel to approach Al-'Amiq Port. Just as they protected the Arab Gulf waters, our capable naval units and the brave force of the Al-'Amiq Port confronted the enemy's boats, clashing with them and destroying and sinking two of them with their personnel. The other enemy boats fled as they were chased by the fire of the brave lions of the sea. God bless the men of our heroic naval force.

3. Our heroic units in the operations sector east of Al-Basrah as usual launched strong attacks on enemy concentrations, inflicting losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment on the enemy as follows: They destroyed 2 tanks; 2 vehicles with ammunition; 1 mortar and 1 machine gun; 10 infantry positions and 1 machine gun emplacement; blew up 1 ammunition dump; and destroyed 2 observation posts.

4. A heroic force from our brave units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris raided enemy concentrations opposite them, quickly storming their target and dealing a sudden blow to the scoundrels with various types of weapons. The enemy forces fled, leaving eight rafts. Our fighters seized them and safely brought them back to their bases. God be praised. Blessed be the soldiers of the heroic VI Army Corps.

5. The brave soldiers of the VII Army Corps launched an intensive attack with various weapons on the enemy concentrations and gave support to the units of the III Army Corps, inflicting further losses on the aggressors in addition to destroying a number of the enemy's vehicles, blowing up six ammunition dumps, and starting several fires on the enemy side.

6. Our brave units in the II Army Corps central sector monitored an enemy group and attacked it with various weapons, inflicting losses in personnel on it and forcing it to flee. Our units in the same sector also directed concentrated blows with their various weapons at the enemy's positions, forcing the scoundrels to leave

them. A number of them were seen fleeing toward Iranian territory.

7. An enemy group tried to approach our forward positions in the special I Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces. The group was attacked with all types of weapons and heavy losses were inflicted on it. Cries of help were heard from the group which was then forced to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 March 1987

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on POW's

JN221514 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Mar (INA) — Iraq has called on the International Committee of the Red Cross and world public opinion to put further pressure on the Iranian regime to abide by the Geneva accords and international laws on the treatment of POW's.

A statement issued by Iraqi Foreign Ministry today reveals that Iraq received 76 disabled Iraqi POW's last Tuesday out the 102 POW's the Iranian regime promised to release.

The statement says the Iranian regime did not explain the reason for the smaller number of POW's. The Red Cross in Baghdad and the representatives of the mission which accompanied the returning POW's have no explanation for the decrease in the number of POW's the Iranian authorities promised to hand over. This confirms the Iranian regime's ill intentions and planning for a farce.

The statement says the number of disabled and elderly Iranian POW's handed over by Iraq so far exceeds the number of Iraqi POW's handed over by the Iranian authorities.

In its statement, the Foreign Ministry called for forcing the Iranian regime to stop its inhumane, cheap dealing with this humanitarian issue.

'Limited Cabinet Reshuffle' Announced 23 March

JN231901 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Mar (INA) — A limited cabinet reshuffle was announced here this evening. Two republican decrees were issued here this evening relieving Subhi Yasin Khudayr of his post as heavy industries minister and appointing him as an adviser at the Presidency. 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd al-Rahim al-Asadi was also relieved of his post as minister of transportation and communications.

Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi was appointed as minister of transportation and communications, Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi al-'Uraybi as minister of heavy industries, and Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi as oil minister.

Al-Masri on Peace Conference, Amman Accord

JN240800 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Mar 87 pp 1,3

[Text] Amman — Jordan is continuing dialogue with the U.S. Administration on convening an international peace conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and rejects any concept that reduces such a conference to "a cover for direct negotiations" with no real effective role, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said Monday.

Despite the differing views of Jordan and the U.S. over the issue, Amman and Washington are continuing the dialogue with the ultimate aim of convening the proposed conference in its proper form, Mr. al-Masri told an informal gathering of local and foreign journalists.

"The dialogue will not stop," said Mr. al-Masri. "We shall find other ways to intensify efforts at higher levels to change the minds of the Americans," he said. American officials have repeatedly said that the U.S. was seeking direct negotiations between Israel and the concerned Arab states and have expressed no real enthusiasm for the conference idea as proposed by Jordan.

Mr. al-Masri noted that while the U.S. had not accepted the proposal in its form it had also not rejected it either. Washington "is not categorically rejecting the proposal but they (American officials) want to check some details," he said explaining that the U.S. Administration opposed the idea of the proposed role for such a conference.

Answering reporters' questions at the weekly "Monday Press Circle" organised by Dr. Musa al-Kilani, director of the Press and Publications Department of the Ministry of Information, Mr. al-Masri made it clear that Jordan was seeking a "proper international conference" with the active participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Jordan cannot accept the American and Israeli ideas of turning the conference as a ceremonial function to launch direct talks between Israel and the concerned Arab states, said the foreign minister.

Mr. al-Masri reiterated Jordan's commitment to a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the proposed conference as outlined in the Feb. 11, 1985, agreement on political coordination between Jordan and the PLO. At the same time, said the minister, Jordan insists the PLO accept U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 before the Kingdom would resume the suspended political coordination.

Mr. al-Masri explained that the demand that the PLO accept 242 "on its own" did not reflect a Jordanian precondition as much as it represented the prerequisites put forward by other parties, notably the U.S., before PLO participation was accepted at the called-for conference.

In reply to a question on reports that the Fatah faction of the PLO has decided to abrogate the Feb. 11 accord, Mr. al-Masri said he doubted PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat would agree to such a move. Reports from Tunis indicated that Fatah had agreed to annul the accord as part of an agreement it reached with several other PLO factions to convene a session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers on April 20. PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim was recently quoted as saying the PNC was not expected to abrogate the Feb. 11 accord.

Answering a question on statements attributed to Mr. 'Arafat that the PLO was willing to attend the proposed international conference as part of an Arab delegation, Mr. al-Masri said he did not believe it reflected the PLO's final position. "We hear different and conflicting statements from PLO officials every day, and I do not think any of these statements reflect the final stand of the PLO over the issue," he said.

On Egyptian efforts to "reconcile" Jordan and the PLO, Mr. al-Masri said the efforts did not produce any breakthrough but he added that the "Egyptians are now more sympathetic with our point of view."

On Jordan's efforts to bring about a more active Soviet involvement in efforts for Mideast peace, Mr. al-Masri said "we have confidence in the Soviet motives" to take an active interest in the region's issues and that Moscow was "now more flexible." He did not elaborate.

Replying to a question on the split within the Israeli Government over the international conference idea, Mr. al-Masri said "both sides (the Labour Party led by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the Likud bloc headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir) will have to sit down and reach an agreement or hold general elections."

On other issues in the region, Mr. al-Masri said Jordan supported the Feb. 22 deployment of Syrian troops to keep peace in West Beirut if it helped the war-torn Lebanon into security and stability. "We believe it is actually a good step especially if it will lead to restoring security and stability to all of Lebanon and to lifting the blockade of the Palestinian refugee camps" in Beirut and south Lebanon, Mr. al-Masri said.

Jordan has repeatedly called for an end to the siege of the camps laid by the Syrian-backed Shi'ite Amal militia. Mr. al-Masri said Monday that there was no change in the Jordanian stand.

The foreign minister said discussions between Amman and Damascus were continuing over the Lebanese political situation as well as efforts to convene the proposed international peace conference. He said both Jordan and Syria had been coordinating positions on several issues related to developments in the region and that he himself was in constant touch with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar'.

Mr. al-Masri described Jordanian-Syrian relations as "very good" but said there was no development towards reconciliation between Syria and Iraq.

U.S. Hostage Steen Ill, 'Could Die in 10 Days'

NC231740 Paris AFP in English 1738 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Beirut, March 23 (AFP) — American hostage Alann Steen is seriously ill and could die in 10 days, his kidnappers said Monday.

In a communique handwritten in Arabic, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine said the health of "the American spy Alann Steen" was deteriorating rapidly, "and he could die in 10 days, according to doctors who advise that his condition must be watched."

"Our humanitarian aims require us to free the spy in exchange for the release of 100 people being held in the jails of the occupation (Israel)," the statement added.

Mr. Steen, a professor at Beirut University College, was kidnapped on January 24 along with three of his colleagues.

U.S. Asked To Arrange Swap

NC231941 Paris AFP in English 1930 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Beirut, March 23 (AFP) — The kidnappers of American hostage Alann Steen in a handwritten statement Monday said he was seriously ill and could be dying in 10 days, while French hostage Jean-Louis Normandin, held by another group, appeared on a videotape and said his threatened execution had been postponed for the moment.

In a letter in Arabic handed, along with an instant color photograph of hostage Robert Polhill, to the Lebanese daily *Al-Nahar*, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine announced that "the American spy Alann Steen" was seriously ill "and he could die in 10 days according to doctors..." The group offered to "free the spy in exchange for the release of 100 people held in the jails of the occupation (Israel)."

Mr. Steen, 46, a teacher at Beirut University College, was kidnapped on January 24 along with three of his colleagues, the American hostages Jesse Turner and Robert Polhill and the Indian teacher Mithileshwar Singh.

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine asked the United States to intervene and arrange the exchange of the 100 prisoners. The terrorist group added it was ready to "draw up a list of the prisoners, the means and place of exchange, if the American Administration asks us." [passage omitted]

Addressing the French president and prime minister, Mr. Normandin said, "The French Government should do something to save me now...(They must) understand that they will obtain nothing in the way of my release through force, but only through discussion. They must not think that in Lebanon any power can intervene in my favor. Only respecting agreements made with the RJO [Revolutionary Justice Organization] can keep me alive and lead to my release."

The 35-year-old hostage, reading off a letter in a dark blue track cuit, asked France to "observe a neutral position in the Iran-Iraq conflict and see to it that this confiict stops without giving more arms to either of these countries. This is the time to correct all the political errors in the Middle East." [passage omitted]

French Hostage Says ORJ Postpones Deadline

NC231712 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1705 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] According to an urgent report carried by AFP, a foreign news agency in West Beirut received a videocassette this afternoon from the Organization of Revolutionary Justice [ORJ]. The cassette shows French hostage Jean-louis Normandian declaring that the organization will not execute him for the time being, in response to appeals from scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Bishop Cappucci.

Iran radio said this afternoon that Anglican envoy Terry Waite is also being held by the Revolutionary Justice Organization. AFP, which reported the news, said the radio attributed the report to its correspondent in Beirut.

Further on Statement

NC231831 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1802 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] French hostage Normandin has declared that he is not in danger of execution for the time being, following the intervention of Scholar Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Bishop Capucci.

In a videocassette that the Organization of Revolutionary Justice [ORJ] sent to a Western news agency in Beirut tonight, Normandin said he was in danger of execution until about a week ago, but scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah's intervention has eliminated that danger for the time being.

The ORJ has held Normandin since 8 March 1986.

Normandin, who was wearing a blue jogging suit, added: I have appeared before a court for the first time. Charges were brought against me and I was tried. However, I managed to request, through my defense lawyer, permission to appear before the court again. I have now stopped the retrial for the time being, thanks to Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Bishop Capucci. The French Government must now do something to save me.

In Iran, Tehran radio said this afternoon that Terry Waite, the archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, who has been accused of espionage, is being held by the armed Lebanese group called the ORJ, which also claims to be holding Normandin.

Execution Said Postponed 1 Day

NC232031 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] In a statement it issued tonight, the Organization of Revolutionary Justice extended the date of its execution of French hostage Jean-Louis Normandin until tomorrow. The

organization added that it is also holding Americans Joseph Ciccipio and Edward Tracy. Normandin, who appeared in a videocassette that the organization gave to a foreign news agency, emphasized that he is not in danger of execution for the time being, following the intervention of Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Bishop Capucci. He also said his trial has been suspended, and that he was in danger of execution about a week ago.

Normandin's Father Meets Fadlallah

NC241133 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Marc Normandin, father of French hostage Jean-Louis Normandin, met today with Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Hizballah's spiritual guide. Mr Normandin did not disclose what took place during the meeting. He only said the basic purpose of the meeting was to save his son's life. He added that he believed that this goal had been realized.

Junblatt Says Waite Detained in Iranian Embassy

NC231802 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] In a statement made yesterday and published today, Minister Walid Junblatt declared that it is probable that Terry Waite is an envoy of Washington and that he was charged with exchanging the U.S. hostages for money. He said the report published by the Soviet magazine *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, stating that Waite is being detained in the Iranian Embassy, is accurate and reliable.

Shams al-Din Calls for Release of Hostages

NC231816 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1740 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Shams al-Din [deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council] made a statement today in which he called for the release of the hostages and for a positive response to the peaceful efforts being made to permit them to return to their families in their homelands. His eminence received French Charge d'Affaires in Lebanon (Gilles Dummierre) this morning. The two men discussed the hostages issue and various domestic developments.

Press Doyen Appeals for 4 Hostages' Release

NC231553 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Press Doyen Muhammad al-Ba'labakki has appealed to the abductors of the four Beirut University College professors to release them immediately. The appeal was made during a news conference which Al-Ba'labakki held today at the Press Syndicate premises, in the presence of the four professors' wives.

Karami Receives New Iranian Ambassador

NC231506 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] At Government House at 1300 today, Prime Minister Rashid Karami received a copy of the credentials of Ahmad Dastmalchiyan, the new ambassador to Lebanon of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Bilateral relations were discussed at the meeting, which was attended by Iranian charge d'affaires Mahmud Nurani.

After the meeting, the Iranian ambassador said: We discussed several issues, including the consolidation of relations in all fields. The two countries and peoples are both prepared to consolidate the relations between them. We will study and discuss this matter in the future. We will also particularly examine the economic and political situation and the crisis in Lebanon.

Asked for his views on Lebanon's future, the ambassador said: First of all, the forces and factions in Lebanon must unite to expel Israel from their territory. They must then turn their attention to the internal situation in Lebanon.

Discuss Iranian Hostages

LD231450 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Beirut, March 23, IRNA — The new Iranian ambassador to Beirut, Ahmad Dastmalchiyan, presented his credentials to Lebanese Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Rashid Karami, Monday.

After the meeting Dastmalchiyan said that he discussed bilateral ties with Lebanese premier and reiterated Iran's stance in supporting unity and independence of Lebanon and the fight against the usurper Zionists.

The Iranian ambassador said that he also held talks with Karami on the four Iranian hostages who are in the captivity of the Phalangists.

The Lebanese prime minister, Dastmalchiyan added, promised to make utmost efforts to solve the problem and secure the release of the hostages.

The Iranian ambassador said that he briefed Karami on Iraqi aggressions against Iranian civilians, bombardment of cities and deployment of chemical weapons against Muslim combatants.

Syrians Target of Two Explosions in West Beirut

NC232114 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Three explosions took place in West Beirut tonight. The sound of an explosion was heard at 2120. Though security sources could not pinpoint the location, it has been reported that the target was a post manned by the Syrian occupation forces, who have placed a cordon around their posts to prevent leaks about operations carried out against them.

A bomb went off at a Syrian occupation post inside the sports stadium shortly after 1900, causing various damage. Another bomb exploded under a yellow Audi parked on a street near Anis Nusuli Street in the area of Verdun at 2050, destroying the car and damaging other cars and nearby buildings.

In another development, it has been reported that the Syrian forces have withdrawn from the Beirut Airport Road, which has been closed for several days now, after being subjected to rocket fire from Burj al-Barajinah.

Organization Claims Attack

NC240715 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Radio Free Lebanon has received a telephone call from someone speaking on behalf of a group calling itself the Revolutionary Popular Resistance Organization [al-muqawamah al-sha'biyah al-thawriyah]. This organization, he said, had mounted an attack on a Syrian post at the Al-Gubayrah traffic circle on the airport road.

Giving details on this operation, the anonymous caller said an explosive charge was detonated near the post. The attackers then shelled the center with LAW rockets, killing all its personnel. According to the caller, between seven and nine people were manning the post. [passage omitted]

Syrians Said To Order Hizballah To Leave Barracks

JN240826 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 06100 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Mar (WAM) — Citing sources from the Lebanese Al-Biqa' valley, the UAE newspaper *Al-Ittihad* has noted that the Syrian forces have issued an ultimatum to Hizballah fighters to vacate the Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks located in a Ba'labakk suburb. These sources added that the Syrian forces gave the fighters a grace period ending early next week.

The Hizballah fighters gained control of the barracks in 1983 and confiscated all the weapons that were in the possession of the Lebanese Army forces. They used the barracks as a main center for their activities in association with forces of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. They also held a number of hostages there.

Presidential Office Director Confers With Birri

NC241220 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Judge Michel Juraysati, the director general of the Presidential office, visited Minister Nabih Birri today to seek his opinion on the same topics about which the recent [Syrian-Lebanese] talks made no progress. Juraysati declined to comment whether he had conveyed an oral message to Minister Birri from President al-Jumayyil. However, he did say the discussions dealt with the political situation.

Sa'adah Rejects Cut in President's Powers

NC231547 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah today reiterated his absolute rejection of any reduction in the powers of the president. He declared: It is out of the question for the president to be deprived of his powers and become no more than a symbol. During a joint meeting of the party's Political Bureau and Central and Consultative Councils, the Phalangist leader said present circumstances conflict with the demand for the abolition of political sectarianism. He reaffirmed that he rejects this demand, because it is not the way to end the sectarianism that exists in Lebanon after a 12-year war.

Dr Sa'adah said it is necessary to prevent the recurrence of explosions like that which took place on the Al-Zalqa highway, and the renewal of fighting, even if limited, on some of the axes in the southern suburb and the mountain area. He also stated there must be no repetition of indiscriminate shelling such as that which was directed at the Al-Hazimiyah area and almost led to a calamity in one of the charitable schools.

Sham'un Speaks on Political Sectarianism

NC240845 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Former President Camille Sham'un has said the Syrian-Lebanese talks have achieved no results so far. In an interview published in today's edition of *Al-Safir*, Sham'un said a presidential system would lead to dictatorship. Sham'un, who stated that the Lebanese disagree on matters of form rather than substance, called for meetings among leaders from both sectors of Beirut. He spoke against the abolition of political sectarianism, but mentioned that he would not oppose such changes of the presidential powers that would not render the post of president totally ineffective. Sham'un told *Al-Safir* that political sectarianism is woven into the fabric of Lebanon. He said sectarian representation is fine; it is the sectarian attitude that we do not need. He stated that future Lebanese-Syrian relations should be undertaken in an atmosphere of cordiality and cooperation. Both countries, he noted, should acknowledge the independence and sovereignty of one another.

Sham'un mentioned that he endorsed Al-Jumayyil's draft plan for political reform. He said the Syrian-Lebanese talks have achieved no results so far and added that dictatorship could result from adopting a presidential system. He pointed out that the needs of the Lebanese communities cannot be examined under the present conditions, and that normal life should be restored before the tabled demands are studied. Calling the Lausanne, Geneva, and Bikfayya [inter-Lebanese] meetings inconclusive, Sham'un asserted that he is opposed to renewing the president's term in 1988. He said that Junblatt's call for the Al-Shuf refugees to return home is an important step in eliminating the so-called partition. He added that there are complete plans for future cooperation between himself and Minister Walid Junblatt.

Shamir: Islamic Jihad Swap Offer 'Extortion'

TA241251 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1239 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir termed as extortion the suggestion raised by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine that 100 Israeli-held terrorists be released in exchange for the U.S. hostage. Shamir said a short while ago that he does not believe Israel would engage in negotiations of any kind with the Islamic Jihad.

In response to a question presented by our correspondent Ilan Ben-Dor on the Pollard affair, Shamir said Attorney David Liba'i's request for immunity for the testimonies of the three people who were active in the Pollard affair is unnecessary. According to Shamir, the three are safe and their testimony would remain confidential.

Shamir Denies Knowledge of U.S. Spy in IDF

TA231739 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir appeared this morning before the Knesset Intelligence Subcommittee. Our correspondent accompanied Shamir on his tour of Netivot town and heard about the session.

[Begin Shamir recording] I met the subcommittee of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and we talked about what has come to be known as the Pollard affair. The subcommittee includes a small, select group of members of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee who are briefed on top-secret matters which take place in or are carried out by Israel.

We held a lengthy and in-depth talk about this affair. I learned a great deal from their questions, and I hope they learned something from my replies. [end recording]

The prime minister added that the subcommittee is performing a serious job and that he has not been summoned to appear before it a second time.

Turning to another subject, Shamir said Pollard had not been operated by Israel's authorities and that he did not know about a U.S. spy in Israel.

[Begin Shamir recording] That is not true. I do not know anything about spies or a so-called dreadful spy who was discovered in the IDF. As is known, Pollard was not operated by Israel's authorities. [end recording]

Referring to the upcoming Herut Convention, the prime minister voiced his hopes for a quiet and united convention.

[Begin Shamir recording] I believe there is no danger that the convention will blow up. We have decided to hold an orderly and serious convention from which we will all emerge united and unified. [end recording]

Fate of Pollard Inquiry Committee 'in Doubt'

TA240550 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Attorney General Yosef Harish and Knesset Member [MK] Prof David Liba'i failed in their meeting last night to resolve the issue of the granting of immunity to three of Liba'i's clients involved in the Pollard affair. The future of the Rotenstreich inquiry committee into the case is now in doubt and sources in the Justice Department, reportedly including Harish himself, say there remains no alternative but to form a judicial commission of inquiry into the case. With more, reporter Dick Winter:

[Begin recording] In his 2 and 1/2 hour meeting with Attorney General Harish, Professor Liba'i sought clear-cut assurances that his three clients — Yosef Yagur, Ilan Ravid, and Irit Erb — who are among those who operated Jonathan Pollard in the United States, would not be prosecuted by Washington for their testimony here in Israel. Harish's proposed solution at last Sunday's cabinet session — that he would invoke his authority under the legal assistance to foreign states law — was found by Liba'i to be untenable in this case. Liba'i failed to obtain his guarantees, and it now seems certain that his three clients will continue to refuse to appear before the Rotenstreich Committee.

The fate of that inquiry is now, to say the least, in doubt, because its chairman, Yehoshu'a Rotenstreich, has vowed that if any witness refused to testify he would immediately resign. Well-placed sources in the government now say the matter needs a political rather than a legal solution. Senior officials in the Justice Department, reportedly including Attorney General Harish himself, now believe there is no alternative but to form an official judicial inquiry commission. [end recording]

Rabin Speaks on Pollard Inquiry, Other Issues

TA230659 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] The defense minister discussed a large variety of subjects in a meeting last night with members of the Labor Party Young Guard, including the fact-finding committee, Knesset Member [MK] David Liba'i's letter, Israeli-South African relations, and the chances for the convocation of an international conference. Our correspondent Razi Barqay listened to Rabin.

[Begin recording] [Barqay] The Pollard affair and Liba'i's letter: Rabin refrained from leveling public criticism at the move by the attorney, a member of the Alignment's Knesset faction, but disclosed that an identical dilemma faced by the Eban committee was solved to the satisfaction of both sides.

[Rabin] It is a pity that this matter was publicized, because Liba'i's demand was met at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Subcommittee. I believe this problem can also be resolved with regard to the fact-finding committee. I believe we have reached the conclusion that a fact-finding committee will execute this process faster and in greater secrecy. I trust that the fact-finding committee will be told the whole truth and will be able to reach this truth.

[Barqay] South Africa: The defense minister was critical of a hypocritical world, as he defined it, which speaks in high-flown language while continuing to do business with South Africa. Even the United States, Rabin said, suddenly discovered it needed South Africa's uranium, and as a result changed the content of its sanctions against Pretoria, taking uranium off the list of boycotted commodities. Under the present circumstances, Israel did what it had to do, and we will pay the price for it in the dismissal of workers in the military industries, among other things.

[Rabin] These industries are in a state of distress. They are reducing the scope of their activity and dismissing workers, first due to the defense budget cut and second due to export problems related to the political ones, and I will not elaborate here. If we add the *Lavi* to this, the problem may become crucial if no appropriate solutions are found.

[Barqay] Another headline in the defense minister's remarks: Falling in line with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres with regard to the international conference issue. The tone is slightly different, more skeptical, but Rabin announced that supporting such a conference has contributed to improving Israel's image in the world.

[Rabin] Even if I do not see the framework of the international conference as my greatest dream or my lifelong aspiration, under certain conditions, to reach direct, bilateral negotiations which are free from outside dictates, I favor such a conference.

[Barqay] Rabin cites three conditions for convening an international conference: a) diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and the release of its Jews; b) an agreement between Jordan and Israel that only they are responsible for bilateral negotiations; c) an understanding that the conference has no power to impose, cancel, or change agreements. Even if talks between Israel and Jordan are deadlocked, Husayn should announce that he does not view the international forum as an arbitration institution. [end recording]

Paper Says Defense Ministry To Cut Lavi Cost

TA220810 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Mar 87 p 1

[Report by Avi Temkin]

[Text] The Defence Ministry is planning to dismiss part of the work force engaged in the development of the *Lavi* jet fighter. Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told a joint meeting of the Knesset Finance and Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees on Friday. He said the ministry would make an effort to reduce costs in the development of the project.

Friday's meeting was convened to deal with the Defence Ministry budget for the coming fiscal year, which starts on April 1. The Treasury has so far not tabled the details of the defence budget in the Knesset. This is because of a dispute with the Defence Ministry on allocations for the *Lavi*, for RAFAEL, the Weapons Development Authority, and for TA'AS, the Military Industries.

The work plan for the *Lavi* for the coming year, drafted by Israel Aircraft Indurtries, calls for the allocation of $270 million, while the state budget has allocated the project only $209m. Rabin told the MKs [Knesset members] that he hoped the dispute would be solved this week, and that before the end of the week the details of the defence budget would be tabled at the Knesset.

The defence minister also said that if there were any gap between the sums needed for the *Lavi* and those allocated in the state budget it would be covered from the defence budget. He stressed that his ministry would not ask for additional allocations.

The IDF's growing opposition to the *Lavi* was expressed by Chief of General Staff Moshe Levi, who told the Knesset members that the army had no money to continue the development of the fighter. Asked by some of the MKs what sum would be acceptable for the army, he said that the *Lavi* was a burden on the IDF's finances whatever the agreed final sum.

Malz Seeks Probe on Lavi Report Publication

TA221712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Dan Tikhon, a member of the Knesset Public Audit Committee, has demanded that the state comptroller immediately submit a report to the committee on the *Lavi* aircraft. Our correspondent Elihu Ben-on reports that MK Tikhon maintains that it will be impossible to vote on the defense budget without having information on the content of the report on the *Lavi*. Our correspondent adds that Comproller Ya'aqov Malz today approached the attorney general with a request that he look into the circumstances that allowed data from the secret *Lavi* report to reach the newspapers 2 days ago and today. In his statement, the state comptroller says he takes a very grave view of the reports and is furthermore taking the necessary steps. He has even appealed to the defense minister on the matter, noting the gravity with which he views the publications.

Tamir Meets Soviet, N. African UN Ambassadors

TA240543 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] The Foreign Ministry director general held a lengthy meeting with the Soviet ambassador to the United Nations last night. The two discussed the Moscow's participation in our region's political process. The Israeli ambassador to the United Nations also participated in the meeting.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer notes that the Foreign Ministry director general also intends to meet with the Chinese ambassador. He already met with the Moroccan and Tunisian ambassadors. Our political correspondent reports that Director General Tamir is scheduled to meet with the Nigerian ambassador in New York. Israel intends to aid this country as well as Tunisia.

PRC Diplomat Comments on Ties With Israel

TA231756 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] The PRC ambassador in France told our correspondent in Paris today that the PRC allows scientists and experts to meet their Israeli counterparts because it distinguishes between the Israeli Government and the Israeli people. The ambassador was replying to questions by Gid'on Kouts at a dinner with diplomatic correspondents in Paris.

[Begin Kouts recording] The Chinese ambassador, who served as deputy foreign minister until recently, told me that although there are no official relations between the PRC and Israel at present, his country distinguishes between the Israeli Government and the Israeli people. In the framework of its policy of openness to the outside world, we allow Chinese scientists and experts to meet their Israeli counterparts in international conventions. According to interntional norms of behavior, we allow Israelis to come to China to take part in such conventions.

As for reports about commercial relations, the Chinese ambassador said the reference is to visits by Jewish businessmen, both American and European. Regarding diplomatic relations, the PRC's position is that Israel must evacuate the territories it occupied in 1967, and restore the national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination. He added that all countries in the region have the right to exist and to be independent.

Finally, the PRC supports the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East according to the proposal of the Arab countries. [end recording]

President Interviewed on FRG Visit, Other Issues

DW231145 Bonn DIE WELT in German 23 Mar 87 p 7

[Interview with Israeli President Chaim Herzog by correspondent Juergen Limiski and Ephraim Lahav in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] *Die Welt*: There was a controversy in Israel about your planned visit. Has it been settled now?

Herzog: I would not call it a controversy. Some voices raised the question whether the time was right for the visit. Frankly speaking, had nobody voiced those doubts it would have worried me, because it would have been a sign that nobody realized the problem. I respect such opinion. I replied personally to everyone who wrote to me. I received many letters. The majority were for the visit. The general atmosphere in the country is appreciative. [passage omitted]

Die Welt: Israel's international reputation seems to be marred at the moment by such things as Irangate and the Pollard affair. Your brother-in-law, former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, said this is the most difficult moment in Israel's foreign policy. Is that correct?

Herzog: I believe it would be premature to say that. Doubtlessly the events you mentioned have caused damage. However, I would not exaggerate it. Many things in this fast-paced modern world look like doomsday, and are forgotten 2 days later. We live in a society where one event rapidly follows the other, creating perspectives that make the preceding event look like nothing. The purpose of foreign policy is progress and exploitation of new potentials. Eventually the Americans will conclude the Iran affair investigation in the United States, and we will bring it to an end here. The Pollard affair is really very grave. It disclosed administrative shortcomings in the government, and it is regrettable. The government has apologized. I think it is now most urgent to ensure that something like that will not happen again.

Die Welt: Do you see difficulties in relations with the United States?

Herzog: No doubt relations are disturbed. If it had to happen, however, it is better that it happened now, not earlier. Now a special relationship has developed between the two countries. Earlier that relationship was based on emotions; today it is based on strategy and self-interest. That is the most important basis. Therefore, I believe the incident is most regrettable, and the whole thing is a shame. I have the feeling, however, that eventually the strategic interests of the Americans — just as ours — will make an improvement in relations inevitable. It will last for a while.

Die Welt: So you foresee no danger of Israel's isolation?

Herzog: No, I do not. An example: We have had long years of intelligence cooperation. As a former intelligence chief, I assume that the balance will be to our advantage. In other words, it may turn out that we were more helpful to the United States than it was to us. In the long run everyone has his own interests. It has caused damage now, but the pressure of events and daily needs will turn out to be stronger in the end.

Die Welt: Let us discuss the Middle East now. What do you think of the much discussed international conference?

Herzog: I followed the Soviet reaction to this debate, and I gained the impression that the Soviets are not at all willing to accept even one of the interpretations made in Israel. [passage omitted]

Die Welt: Let us return to Germany. Can you imagine making a visit to the other part of Germany?

Herzog: I would like to do that, but just look at the difference! The FRG accepted the responsibility of the German people for the tragedy caused by Nazi Germany to the Jewish people. I can visit that country today and get a friendly reception there. Its president has visited us. It is a country that has done its best regarding reparation and on working on a new future. I see two different worlds: One of them is free and open with a forward view — the other has done practically nothing but talk and deny the past. It is ruled by a totalitarian dictatorship, and it is a Soviet satellite. [passage omited]

Likud: Agreement With Egypt 'Did Not Last'

TA231231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] The Likud faction says the Jordanian-Egyptian announcement to the effect that the PLO should take part in the peace negotiations proves that the agreement between Shim'on Peres and President Mubarak did not last. Faction Chairman Hayim Kaufman and Knesset Member [MK] Dan Meridor criticized the Foreign Ministry declarations that Egypt had conceded PLO participation.

MK Meridor also reacted to Soviet demands regarding the international conference, proposing a protest to Moscow over the fact that it is not prepared to settle for the umbrella role designated it by several Israeli statesmen.

HA'ARETZ Seeks Review of Contracts With RSA

TA231221 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Mar 87 p 9

[Commentary by Aqiva Eldar: "The Last Arms Boat"]

[Excerpts] Israel will not sign any new defense deals with South Africa, and the military industries are crying out in outrage — this was published last week following the lengthy cabinet discussion. We are now free to discuss the military relations with the apartheid regime in Pretoria even without the qualifying "according to foreign publications." The Inner Cabinet decision to refrain from any new deals also leads us to conclude that existing contracts will be fully honored. This is in fact the only practical decision (can this be possible?) that emerged from that session. Eight ministers rejected the proposal by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to adopt the European model with regard to South Africa. Instead, the Inner Cabinet will meet again to discuss the recommendations to be submitted by the interministerial team of officials in another 2 months.

Many arguments were put forward by both those in the Alignment and in the Likud who are opposed to the sanctions. What was markedly noticeable among them was that were it not for the U.S. threat hovering on the horizon because of the Pollard affair, the political- moral arguments would not have helped Peres. One after another they would have brought up the Jewish community in South Africa, coal, and traditional Israeli opposition to sanctions. Above all, as always, there would be the sacred cow for which Peres himself was the chief midwife: the defense industries. Thousands of jobs, hundreds of millions of dollars, a security infrastructure, the compensation that has to be paid for a breach of existing contracts. One reason was missing from the discussion, and from almost every discussion on the future of Israeli-South African relations. Last week someone paying a brief visit, former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, tried to speak to Shamir-Peres-Rabin. Fraser, a member of the British Commonwealth delegation to Pretoria, told me shortly before he departed that the trio firmly refuses to believe that the current white regime cannot last for long.

All these arguments — separately and jointly — are very reminiscent of a previous incident in which Israel became involved. The similarity between the events and the arguments — and most amazingly the errors — is astounding.

3 July 1979: Israel's last arms deal with Nicaragua was canceled after a ship bearing arms from Israel was halted at a distance of 2 days sailing time from the port of destination in Nicaragua in the wake of U.S. diplomatic intervention. The State Department intervened with Israel and firmly demanded that the shipment be held up. At that time it was absolutely clear that the cruel and corrupt ruler, Ernesto Somoza, was fighting for survival against a people's movement that was stronger than he. The Western countries, including the United States, had long since severed all ties with him. And indeed not more than 2 weeks passed before Somoza — after 43 years of family rule — was forced to give up his place to the extremist left. The new rulers — the Sandinistas — did not forget the *'Arava* planes that bombed the poor quarters of Managua. People in the United States still remember the picture of soldiers in Somoza's national guard holding Galil rifles in their hands while one of their comrades shot an ABC correspondent in cold blood. [passage omitted]

Nevertheless, something small did happen last week in Israel at the Inner Cabinet session. It may be that thanks to the fact that yesterday's founder of the arms industry is today's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and that he must now watch world developments from this observation post and not through the sights of the export artillery. He has not been caught with the last arms boat this time.

Goren: Foreign Funding in W. Bank Acceptable

TA231248 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, says that the State of Israel is not opposed to foreign elements transferring funds for the development of projects in the territories. In an interview to our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a, Mr Goren said Israel only demands that the money not be handed over to hostile elements and that its transfer be carried out in coordination with the government. He said that to date no funds have been transferred in the framework of the Jordanian plan for economic development of the territories, nor does he know anything about reports published in Jordan to the effect that Saudi Arabia had transferred funds to the joint Jordanian-PLO committee.

Poll Shows Peres, Shamir Popularity Down

TA240926 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The popularity of Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister has suffered greatly. Less than 30 percent of those surveyed are now pleased with how he is doing his job. The popularity of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has also dropped. In contrast, the number of those who are pleased with Moshe Nisim as finance minister and Yitzhaq Rabin as defense minister has risen. These are the findings of the PORI Institute nationwide public opinion poll conducted at the request of *Ha'aretz* between 1 and 5 March.

Only 47.7 percent are now pleased with how Shim'on Peres is doing his job. This is the lowest figure in this category noted for Mr Peres during his years of service as prime minister and foreign minister, apart from October 1984 when he first entered office as prime minister. Only 40.5 percent said they were pleased with him at that time. His popularity stood at about 60 percent in 1985 and his popularity rose to over 70 percent in 1986.

There has been a further drop in the popularity of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir since he first entered office. In October 1986, the figure for those pleased with him was 41.5 percent; in January 1987 it was 34.4 percent; and now only 30.2 percent are satisfied with his functioning as prime minister.

In contrast, the number of those satisfied with Moshe Nisim as finance minister has risen. At present, 33.8 percent are satisfied with him, compared with 28.8 percent in January 1987 when the new economic program was implemented.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is maintaining and even increasing his popularity; 63.5 percent are now satisfied with him compared with 61.8 percent in January.

The poll covered a representative sample of 1,200 men and women who were interviewed privately throughout Israel.

Herut Factions Agree on Convention Agenda

TA230919 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Mar 87 p 1

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] The Herut Convention will be "dramatic and difficult but dignified and democratic," Labour and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Qatzav said last night after Herut ministers tentatively agreed again to the agenda for the convention.

According to yesterday's agreement, the March 29 convention will hold open elections for the hitherto non-existent post of deputy- chairman of Herut, as well as for the operational posts of central committee chairman and secretariat chairman. The convention is also expected to unanimously re-elect Prime Minister Shamir as party chairman.

The agreement is in line with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi's demand for an unrestricted contest for the three posts. Ministers Moshe Arens and Ari'el Sharon had pressed for a pre-arranged allocation of the positions, but gave in to Levi's demands for fear of another raucous convention which would break up in the middle as happened last April.

In return Levi undertook not to support a motion for the agenda sponsored by his followers whereby ministers would be barred from contending for the chairmanship of the central committee and the secretariat.

At the moment, Levi is the sole candidate for deputy-chairman, a largely ceremonial post which Levi hopes will help secure his position as "No 2" and heir-apparent to Shamir. [passage omitted]

ALGERIA

Leading Lawyers Ask Chadli To Lift Restrictions

NC241058 Paris AFP in English 1041 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Algiers, March 24 (AFP) — Leading Algerian lawyers Monday asked President Chadli Benjedid to lift measures restricting the movements of at least 22 critics of the government.

An official statement implicitly acknowledged for the first time that such measures were in force, saying that President Chadli had been "sympathetic to the complaints of the delegation about lawyers affected by restrictions".

Many lawyers, as well as activists of the officially unrecognised Algerian Human Rights League, consider that the measures, confining those concerned to the remote southern part of the country, are illegal.

The 22 affected include Human Rights League President Abdenour Ali Yahia and other members and sympathisers, Marxist intellectuals and people suspected of supporting ousted former President Ahmed Ben Bella, a religious fundamentalist and a former Ben Bella minister who broke with him, Mohamed Seghir Nekkache, and his Swedish wife.

The communique said President Chadli told the lawyers, who were led by the head of the Algiers bar, Tayeb Belloula, of his "constant concern to ensure the upholding of the law, the guarantee of the citizen's individual freedoms and right to a defence in line with proper justice accorded by the country's basic texts."

Last Thursday lawyers from the Algiers bar decided to set up an Algerian branch of the human rights association Amnesty International. They applied for official approval under Algerian law, and would not act publicly until this was obtained, Mr Belloula said.

Bendjedid Receives Message From Saudi King Fahd

LD231435 Algiers APS in English 1300 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Algiers, 23/3/87 (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, FLN Party secretary general received on Sunday a message from the Servant of the Holy Place [title as received], King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, king of Saudi Arabia Kingdom.

The message of the Saudi king was handed over to the head of state by Mr 'Ali ibn Husayn ibn Muslim minister counsellor of the king and his special envoy.

Netherlands Foreign Minister Ends Visit, Departs

LD232033 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek left Algeria today following a 3-day visit to our country during which he held political talks with Algerian officials which centered around international political matters and cooperation horizons between Algeria and the Netherlands.

LIBYA

JANA Denies Foreign Reports of Presence in Sudan

LD240844 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Mar (JANA) — Foreign news agencies have reported statements which they claim Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister of Sudan, made to the Sudanese Constituent Assembly on the presence of Libyan forces in west Sudan.

The JANA political editor comments on these reports as follows:

While we are surprised at these statements, we believe they have been falsely attributed to Brother al-Mahdi in a desperate attempt by the imperialist forces and their lackeys in the area, primarily the treacherous Egyptian regime, to sow dissension between the sons of the one Arab people in the two sister countries — the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan. We stress there are no Libyan forces in Sudan except the forces of the Revolutionary Democratic Council and some other Chadian detachments that are fighting the agent Habre, because we know and the whole world knows that Sudan is providing refuge in the west of the country for more than 500,000 Chadians, who fled from the oppression and persecution of the agent Habre, seeking protection from their brothers in Sudan. And Sudan has more than once reported the violations committed against Sudanese territory by the gangs of the agent Habre who claim to be pursuing revolutionary elements among the Chadian refugees.

Paper Views Mitterrand Visit to Algeria

LD231533 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1240 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Mar (JANA) — The newspaper Al-Zahf Al-Akhdar, which is published by the revolutionary committees, comments in its issue today on Mitterrand's visit to Algeria. Under the headline, "Algeria's Guest," the paper writes: The imperialist colonialist France, which still oppresses numerous parts of the world from New Caledonia to Martinique, and from La Reunion to Corsica and to Chad and other countries with agent regimes that rest on the bones of defenseless citizens with the support and blessing of imperialist France; the nuclear power France that does not hesitate to carry out nuclear explosions in the lands and waters of remote small peoples to intimidate them and to expose them to the destructive nuclear radiation; the France that has invaded the Arab East and Arab West with its hordes leaving behind millions of Arab martyrs and devastation and backwardness and misery; the France that was one of the principal parties to the aggressive tripartite aggression on 'Abd al-Nasir's Egypt in 1956; the France that has killed more than 1.5 million people is the same France whose president with his file that bulges with crimes is now trying to undermine the security and stability of the Arab people of Libya through its southern borders in a desperate attempt to achieve what U.S. imperialism failed to achieve.

Al-Zahf Al-Akhdar adds that this is the France which Mitterrand, who is renouned for his imperialist crusader background, now wants to have a new glittering face and a humanitarian image and to offer a hand in friendship and cooperation with the same peoples that it previously made destitute, killed, looted, and shattered.

Today we hear about a new Mitterrand who differs from yesterday's Mitterrand, who committed the most abominable forms of devastation and committed the most ferocious crimes against the peoples of this earth, a new Mitterrand who knocks on the doors of fraternal Algeria seeking friendship, cooperation, and peace, a different Mitterrand donning clothes other than those he wore when he held cabinet portfolios in the days of the French occupation of Algeria. But will the Algerians forget the past Mitterrand? We wonder. Can they believe that the visiting Mitterrand is different from the Mitterrand of yesterday?

The paper says that before going into more detail, there is the bitter fact that cannot be ignored or passed over — the tearing asunder of the one Arab homeland and its division into factions with which the imperialist colonialists claim to be friends at a time when they are openly hostile to the other factions while the nature of colonialism remains the same — absolute hostility toward the whole Arab nation. This is due to the absence of the effective Arab unity which deters any enemy in this world irrespective of his size.

The paper points out that Mitterrand's visit to sister Algeria has definite and clear purposes, so much so that it needs no exposure by an analyst. The visit is taking place at this time to spread the venom of disunity among the sons of the one homeland in the Jamahiriyah and Algeria, and so that through the visit Mitterrand can conduct a provocative operation, which the Elysee believes it has planned with such precision, against the heroic Algerian people who gave caravans of martyrs to gain their freedom and who evicted the barbarian French invaders by their belief in their land, Arabism, and religion.

This suspect visit comes at the same time that Mitterrand's soldiers are deployed on Chadian soil spreading destruction, murder, and persecution and practicising racism in its ugliest forms against the Arab people of Chad.

Mitterrand is going to Algeria while still supporting a lackey regime that he imposed on the Chadian people by force of arms, providing it with everything necessary to threaten the security and stability of the Libyan Arab people who are brothers of the Algerian people. It is as if he is seeking to drive a wedge between the members of the same nation in fraternal Algeria and the Jamahiriyah and between the two great revolutions — the Al-Fatih revolution and the 1 November revolution.

The paper adds: This suspect visit is a great insult that Mitterrand is aiming at the two fraternal peoples and the Arab nation in general, but we hasten to add that Mitterrand is really plowing the sea because Algeria is unlike any other country colonized by France. Algeria is the country that taught France the most severe and bitter lessons and that wrested its independence by force with the blood of its sons which soaked every inch of free Algeria. The head of the Elysee is well aware of all these facts.

Al-Zahf Al-Akhdar continues: Today President Mitterrand comes to Algeria bringing his imperialist record and black grudge against Algeria and its people and France's imperialist policy throughout the world. This President Mitterrand seems to be no different from the former imperialist minister Mitterrand who has moved up in his imperialist positions.

One is bemused to see an imperialist president from the past and of the present deplaning on the land of struggle and freedom to shake hands with the freemen and strugglers that defeated him as a minister. He comes as a president in the hope of compensating by political means what he lost by military means.

What will he feel when he finds there to welcome him a number of Algerian heroes including struggler Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim, the Algerian foreign minister, whom Mitterrand, when he was French interior minister and previously minister of war prisoners and when he took a hostile stand against the Algerian revolution, subjected to all sorts of torture, starvation and electricity and water cuts. [sentence as received] Struggler Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim might forgive Mitterrand and the barbaric French for what they did, but he cannot forgive the difficult times with all their abominable colonialist images that Mitterrand represents. Mitterrand used to declare then that Algeria was part of France, as he dreamed. But Mitterrand had to leave in defeat and frustration.

The imperialists, however, do not learn the lessons of history. Here comes Mitterrand now, despite the time lag between the two eras, to declare that he wants Chad to be part of France. Will he be able to achieve that? Or will his narcissistic dreams be blown away by the winds and fade as was the case with his past dreams in the jungles of the Algerian Oras?

The paper concludes its editorial as follows: We say to one of the symbols of European savagery and colonialism that history is the memory of peoples, and just as Algeria was liberated by its heroes who are leading it today to its brilliant Arab future, Chad will also sooner or later be liberated inch by inch under GUNT leadership whatever the cost of its sons. Algeria provides history and lessons that can never be forgotten.

The visitor to Algeria is hateful and nurses illusions about what he is seeking, and what he is seeking is bad: the Arab people are one in Libya, Algeria, and Chad. This is the truth whether he likes it or not. The noble militants in the Arab land of Algeria fully realize that the hand offered to shake theirs is stained with the blood of the innocent. Likewise, they very well realize that these colonialists cannot offer a hand to shake theirs while they stab with the other hand their brothers from the south [Chad] with the daggers of colonialist rancor.

The ties between Algeria and Libya will remain strong and firm enough not to be affected by a dagger that has become flawed from overuse. Pan-Arabism is stronger, the revolution is stronger, and the alliance between the two great revolutions in Libya and Algeria will outlast all these attempts.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Lebanese CP leader 23 Mar
LD231114 Tripoli JANA in English 0953 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al Marikh 23, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The leader of the revolution has received Mr. George Hawi, the secretary-general of the Lebanese Communist Party.

MOROCCO

Cultural Cooperation Agreement Signed With USSR
LD201438 Rabat MAP in English 1237 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Rabat, Mar 20 (MAP) — The members of the Soviet-Moroccan Friendship Association held talks here Thursday with Secretary General of the Moroccan Ministry of Cultural Affairs Ahmed Akellal.

The talks focused on means of consolidating bilateral cooperation,especially in the cultural area.

The Soviet delegation, headed by the association's chairman and education minister of the Federative Republic of Russia Georgiy Veselov, and the Moroccan-Soviet Friendship Association had signed on Wednesday a cooperation agreement providing for the consolidation of relations and exchange of delegations to enable their members and the Moroccan and Soviet peoples at large to better know each other's cultural, economic, scientific, and technological specificities.

The Soviet delegation arrived in Morocco Tuesday.

Marrakech Governor Meets USSR Group
LD231341 Rabat MAP in English 1229 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Marrakech, Mar 23 (MAP) — The visiting delegation from the Soviet-Moroccan Friendship Association was received here Saturday by Governor of the Marrakech Province Mohamed Belmahi.

The delegation was briefed by Belmahi on the history and on the economic, social, and cultural activities of Marrakech, which is linked to the town of Tashkent by a twinning accord.

Belmahi also tackled other issues relating to Moroccan-USSR relations, the democratic process in Morocco and Morocco's efforts to promote world peace and friendship.

On his part, Georgiy Veselov, chairman of the Soviet-Moroccan Friendship Association and education minister of the Federative Republic of Russia, underlined the Soviet government's and people's attachment to peace and friendship among the people. He recalled that the association celebrates the throne day every year.

During a visit to the Marrakech town hall, Veselov proposed to the municipality's council to organize next year a cultural week on Marrakech in Tashkent. He also suggested the creation of a branch of the association in Marrakech.

Netherlands Foreign Minister Ends Visit 21 March
LD211421 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek concluded his official visit to Morocco today. On leaving Rabat Sale Airport this morning, he expressed his gratitude for the welcome he was given by King Hassan II and affirmed that his talks with a number of Moroccan ministers were fruitful and were aimed at consolidating relations between the Netherlands and Morocco. He said that the talks were crowned by the signing of a cultural cooperation agreement between the two countries. He added that two other agreements covering land and air transport were being prepared. [passage omitted]

'Polisario' Battalion Surrenders to Mauritania
LD231352 Rabat MAP in English 1245 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Rabat, March 23 (MAP) — A battalion of the "Polisario" mercenaries surrendered with all its weapons to Mauritanian authorities in Zouirat and asked for asylum, reports Monday the *Al-'Alam* daily of the Istiqlal Party.

In a dispatch from Nouakchott, the daily reports on the lassitude of the members of the battalion towards the war and the unbearable situation in the Tindouf camps where scores of persons die every day of famine and disease.

Members of the Katiba [Regiment] also expressed their weariness of the hopeless war they had to wage against Morocco under Algerian pressure.

The surrender of the battalion, goes on *Al-'Alam*, was behind the visit of the mercenary Ould Salek to the Mauritanian capital to ask Mauritanians to hand the "Polisario" members of the Katiba, a request rejected by Nouakchott when deserters said all they wanted was to live in peace.

The daily also says that hundreds of youth, mostly Mauritanians, escape from the Tindouf camps and head for Mauritanian towns close to the borders once they realise they have been the victims of Algerian propaganda.

SUDAN

Soviet Envoy on Parliament Group Visits, Trade
JN222021 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1755 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Soviet Ambassador in Khartoum Yevgeniy Vasilyevich Musiyko has said that last month's visit to the country by a Soviet parliamentary delegation confirmed a mutual will to develop bilateral relations in the two peoples' best interests. He said the dialogue which began here will be completed when a Sudanese parliamentary delegation visits Moscow soon.

Speaking at a news conference here today, the Soviet ambassador said the visit to Khartoum by a Soviet trade team boosted trade to $50 million for the USSR and Sudan each. The trade protocol signed by the two countries, he added, had given a legal basis to

Soviet-Sudanese relations. There are still obstacles to be overcome due to a refusal by the Sudanese Ministry of Trade to give Sudanese companies and businessmen licenses to import from the Soviet Union, Musikyo said. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Returns From Visit to Italy

JN211843 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum March 21 (SUNA) — The Italian Government expressed readiness to provide the Sudanese police with the required assistance and to strengthen relations between the two countries' police, Minister of Interior Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn who returned home today concluding a week-long visit to Italy said. On the other hand the Egyptian Government has renewed its readiness to present assistance to the Sudanese police, the minister said, adding that assistance to the Sudanese police will arrive from Egypt within the few coming days.

It is to be recalled that the minister made a stopover at Cairo airport on his way back home from Italy.

National Party Leader Ghabbush Reported Arrested

JN221613 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1418 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Mar (SUNA) — The newspaper Al-Usbu' reported here today that police have arrested Philip 'Abbas Ghabbush, leader of the Sudanese National Party. The paper said police had been searching for Ghabbush since 7 January following a complaint lodged against him by the Trade Ministry's Violations Investigation Committee, which says he has violated the provisions of the law on illegal acquisition of wealth and the penal code.

Al-Usbu' also said police arrested Ghabbush in the Attorney General's Office while he was trying to contact the investigation committee. The paper reports that the investigation committee set bail at 3 million pounds.

Correction to Al-Mahdi on Libyan 'Interference'

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Prime Minister Condemns Libyan 'Interference,'" published in the 23 March Middle East and Africa *Daily Report* on page Q 4, paragraph one, lines two to three supplied from a retransmission of the item by Khartoum SUNA in Arabic at 1715 GMT on 23 March:

...Libyan forces' interference in Sudanese territory and their prevarication in withdrawing, describing it as...(supplying indistinct words)

TUNISIA

uf headlineBourguiba Receives French Minister for Talks

LD231340 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Mar 87

uf blank,1

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba has received French Social Affairs and Employment Minister Philippe Seguin in the presence of [Prime Minister] Rachid Sfar, [Director of Cabinet] Mansour Skhiri, Social Affairs Minister Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, and the ambassadors of the two countries.

Philippe Seguin said he is greatly honored to have met with President Bourguiba. He added: I was very moved by the meeting as a representative of the French Government and as one born in Tunisia. I know Tunisia's history and the extremely important role played by President Habib Bourguiba.

Philippe Seguin said he conveyed a personal message to the president from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac expressing sentiments of loyalty and appreciation to President Bourguiba. He added that the meeting enabled them to discuss some issues relating to the French and Tunisian communities in both countries. He also said he will have the opportunity of studying this matter more thoroughly and of discussing the problems of the Tunisian community in France with a view to guaranteeing all its rights.

Seguin described the meeting as important.

WESTERN SAHARA

Polisario Communique Reports Clashes 15-17 March

LD202012 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Western Sahara: The sixth Moroccan wall has reached the region of Aoussert in the southwestern part of the Saharan territory. According to a Polisario Front communique, fierce fighting is continuing between the Saharan People's Liberation Army and Moroccan occupation troops in the region. Twenty-five mines exploded between 15 and 17 March. Fifteen Moroccan vehicles and a bulldozer were destroyed and their occupants were killed.

8 Moroccan Soldiers Killed, Injured by Landmines

LD211129 Algiers APS in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] The Liberated Territories, 21 Mar (APS) — Eight Moroccan soldiers were killed or injured following the explosion of mines that were laid by the Saharan People's Liberation Army fighters in the regions of (Quelb Ennas) and Tederruret, according to a Saharan Ministry of Information communique.

The Saharan communique added yesterday that 15 vehicles were destroyed and their occupants were killed, stressing that 16 antitank and 8 antipersonnel mines exploded on 15 and 17 March on a building site of the sixth part of the Moroccan defensive wall.

After more than a month of work, the wall has reached the region of Ausert, southwest of the liberated territories. Similarly, the communique pointed out that fierce battles are continuing between the Saharan People's Liberation Army and the Moroccan Royalist Occupation Army (?over) this region.

Saharan Communique Reports Recent Bomb Explosions
LD231615 Algiers APS in French 1200 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text]SDAR, 23 Mar (APS) — Twenty-four antitank mines and several other antipersonnel mines planted by the Saharan fighters behind the wall in the Moroccan troops' field of action, exploded in succession on 18, 21, and 22 March at (Gelb en Ness), (Gleibat el Mesdar) and in the north and northeast of (La Laibat Boubker). This was announced on Sunday in a communique from the Saharan Information Ministry. These explosions led to the destruction of no fewer than 24 vehicles and the annihilation of several soldiers of the Moroccan occupation forces undertaking the costly construction of the sixth section of the Moroccan defense wall, the communique concluded.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Discusses 'Atrocities' by Sudan

EA232237 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Report by *Ethiopian News Agency* correspondent Assefa Seyoum on report presented by PMAC Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam to the sixth regular WPE Central Committee plenum; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] In his report, the comrade secretary general also refers in detail to the policy of peace pursued by revolutionary Ethiopia, in the sphere of external relations with regard to its internal development. Assefa Seyoum, the *Ethiopian News Agency's* reporter has forwarded the following report on this:

[Seyoum] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam referred to external relations in his report to the Central Committee. He said steps have been taken in the sphere of foreign relations which could contribute to mutual interests and ensure regional peace with African and other countries in the political, economical and social sectors. These relations would be based on the principles of peaceful coexistence and nonalignment. Our comrade revolutionary leader said: With regard to improving and strengthening our relations with neighboring countries, which is a high priority, we have sent various party and government delegations to those countries and received their delegations over the past 6 months. During these visits, we have made efforts to discuss important bilateral issues.

The comrade secretary general gave an objective account of the situation, saying it is necessary to reiterate revolutionary Ethiopia's desire for peace and its attitude toward those who affect ignorance, who pretend to be innocent of troublemaking, and who try to appear as peace seekers. These people label [the conflicts] regional conflicts, area conflicts or problems of the Horn of Africa. They deceive world opinion and their people, in particular the people of Ethiopia, and also all the fraternal and neighboring people of Somalia and Sudan, regarding the situation that exists between us and revolutionary Ethiopia's efforts for peace. [passage omitted]

In his report Comrade Mengistu stated that in its first quest for peace with Somalia, Ethiopia [sent] a high-ranking good-will delegation from the police and national army coordinating committee. He detailed the efforts made, saying that although we were the main victims, we did not change our attitude. Instead, we unhesitatingly engaged in talks at ministerial level and in talks between himself and the leader of Somalia. He said that other sides do not desire peace as much as we do. Nevertheless, in its efforts at peace and understanding so far, revolutionary Ethiopia will seek peaceful avenues and will strive for a positive and legal solution now and in the future.

Speaking about the other neighbor, Sudan, Comrade Mengistu said [that country] has been a haven for anti-unity elements. He said the Sudanese Government has fully cooperated with [these elements]. They allow them to establish offices in various towns and helps them organize, train and arm their forces. This enables them to campaign against our country and spill our people's blood. He added that it is very difficult to find a comparison to the atrocities committed against us by the Sudanese Government.

He said that while this was being perpetrated against it, Ethiopia on the other hand has made repeated efforts to help the Sudanese solve their own internal problems. In addition, we have made efforts in the past and are currently making them inside our country to bring the opposing forces in Sudan together and to help them reach an agreement. We do this so that Sudan finds its own internal lasting peace. This is proof of the fact that revolutionary Ethiopia seeks peace and goodneighborliness.

In conclusion, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam reiterated his call to the Sudanese Government to recognize Ethiopia's efforts and for its part to strive toward taking tangible and constructive measures to eradicate current problems and to improve bilateral relations. After assessing Ethiopia's foreign policy, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam returned to the situation within our country and concluded by reiterating his plea for peace regarding the current problem in the northern part of our country:

[Begin Mengistu recording] [passage omitted] At this juncture, when all the people of Ethiopia, through their own participation have prepared and approved their Constitution with their own voice and are on the brink of achieving full supremacy by establishing the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, we would like to repeat our call to all those who pursue different goals, to abide by the resolution of the majority of the people and to give the relevant response to true democracy. Therefore, we again present our plea for peace to them, asking them to accept the decisive attitude of the Ethiopian people, to work for unity and strength, rather than to bring about divisions and weakness, to work for their prosperity rather than their poverty, to work for equality and common goals rather than to bring about conflicts between factions which have narrow aims, and to pursue the path of peace. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Speaks on Rehabilitation Program

EA232219 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam said today that the major task now facing the Ethiopian people is the nomination, screening, and finally election of members of the National Assembly, and stressed that the democratic participation of the masses in this process is of decisive importance. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the Central Committee of the WPE, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, made the observation in his central report to the sixth regular plenum of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, which got under way here in Addis Ababa today. The general secretary pointed out that the election process provides the working people with a mechanism whereby it is represented by deputies of its own choosing in the National Assembly, which, he said, in an expression of its political supremacy.

In his report regarding the rehabilitation program, Comrade Mengistu stated that the program was intended to protect not only individual human life, but also nature by reducing pressure on natural resources in those parts of the country where there is heavy concentration of population. He added that as it is impossible to conduct these extensive and lasting schemes through committees and in the form of a campaign, it has been decided that beginning next Ethiopian calendar year [in September] the rehabilitation program will be the responsibility of a special government body which is to be established.

The general secretary went on to report that between the launching of the villagization scheme last year and 7th February 1987, work on 5,176 of the 11,460 villages under construction had been completed. Comrade Mengistu stressed the need for taking maximum advantage of the current small rains and conserving water, particularly in those areas where drought has been recurrent.

TANZANIA

Mwinyi Announces 'Minor' Cabinet Reshuffle

EA231736 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Dar es Salaam — President Ali Hassan Mwinyi has announced a minor cabinet reshuffle. President Mwinyi has created anew a Ministry of Water Development and appointed several new ministers.

The president has said the Office of the President will now have only one minister of state responsible for the construction of the new capital city in Dodoma. He has appointed Ndugu Anna Abdallah as the new minister of state responsible for the construction of the capital city. She replaces Ndugu Samuel Sitta, who has been appointed the Iringa regional commissioner. The new Dodoma regional commissioner is Ndugu Athumani Kabongo who was the Iringa regional commissioner until his new appointment.

President Mwinyi told media heads a short while ago that the Ministry of Finance would continue to be headed by Minister Msuya with Ndugu Mbogoro, a minister of state, as his deputy. Ndugu Mwinyi has, however, appointed a new deputy finance minister. He is Ndugu Simai Pandu Makame.

The deputy finance minister, Ndugu Amina Salum Ali, now becomes a minister of state in the Foreign Ministry responsible for international cooperation. She replaces Ndugu Kighoma Malima, who now becomes minister for education.

The current minister for education, Ndugu Makweta, now becomes minister of agriculture. He replaces Dnugu Bomani who now becomes minister of labor and manpower development.

Ndugu Mwakawago has been moved from the Ministry of Labor and Manpower Development to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. He replaces Ndugu Basil Mramba who recently lost his parliamentary seat. The former minister of agriculture, Ndugu Paul Bomani, now becomes the new minister of labor and manpower development. The new minister of water development is Ndugu Pius Ngwandu.

UGANDA

225 Rebels Killed in 21 March 'Futile Attack'

EA240744 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] The Ministry of Defense has announced that last Saturday [21 March] rebels in the north made another futile attack on Lira [150 miles north of Kampala]. A Ministry of Defense statement says the rebels were again repulsed, leaving behind 225 dead. Eighty-nine guns were captured. The statement says the group which attacked Lira over the weekend is the one which the NRA [National Resistance Army] has been destroying before Kilak County on the 18th January this year.

The statement stressed that what is noteworthy is the fact that of the rebels dead, 5 were killed and burned by the wananchi [citizens] and they recovered 11 rifles from the enemy. It pointed out that such a phenomenon is no longer an isolated incident. Throughout Kitgum, Lira and Gulu, the masses are becoming even more militant than the NRA. The ministry said this is as the government expected. The lies of the enemy are now exposed. The supposed genocidal acts against the masses by the NRA have not materialized and criminal acts of the enemy have become more apparent to the wananchi.

Ever since Christmas 1986, the government has confirmed over 1,465 enemy dead and 1,454 weapons captured. This does not include victories between August and December 1986. The figures do not also include the victories in the Karamoja area against cattle raiders mixed up with varieties of other criminals. This, the statement concludes, is a historical, inevitable struggle and the NRA is winning it, like it won all the other struggles.

CHAD

Sudan Urged To 'Assume Its Responsibilities'

AB231423 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1340 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Press communique issued by Chadian Foreign Ministry on 23 March 1987]

[Text] The Libyan aggressor forces stationed in Sudan attacked the Chadian localities of Dade, Tine, and Koulbous on 21 and 22 March 1987. Always vigilant, the FANT strongly repulsed the aggressors, who withdrew into Sudanese territory. Far from withdrawing from Sudan, the Libyan troops continue to receive reinforcements and they have just attacked Chadian territory. (?More serious) is the fact that the Libyan troops are being redeployed toward the south, thus directly threatening Chad's security, within the framework of the joint cooperation [words indistinct] the aggression and the occupation of the northern part of our country. In the face of this dangerous situation, the Government of the Republic of Chad calls on the Government of the sister Republic of Sudan to assume its responsibilities. For its part, the Chadian Government will not hesitate to use all means at its disposal at any time to defend its country's territorial integrity and assure the (?survival) of its citizens. Henceforth, the Chadian Army will be allowed to pursue the aggressors wherever they may find refuge, until they are rendered harmless.

Radio Questions Effectiveness of Sudan's Efforts

AB231815 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] When the Chadian Government made known its great concern over the serious situation created along the eastern border of our country by the buildup of Libyan troops on Sudanese territory, the authorities in Khartoum, first of all, denied it outright before acknowledging it later and confirming concordant reports from various sources. In fact, this is all to the credit of the leadership of this neighboring sister country, which through the voice of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has stated that Sudan, in pursuance of its official policy, has pledged not to grant military facilities to the warring sides in Chad. It also specified that Sudan is opposed in principle to the presence of foreign troops in Chad.

As for the Libyan troops, they had entered Sudanese territory without authorization. They were said to be a column accompanying a food convoy meant for the inhabitants of Sudan's western province of Darfour. These troops had started withdrawing from Sudan after receiving orders to this effect. There was, therefore, no reason to doubt the honesty of the Sudanese authorities, whose statements have undoubtedly reassured the Chadian authorities.

Thus, the Chadian Government rapidly responded to the Sudanese initiative by calling for a reconciliation meeting between Chadians and Libyans in Khartoum to resolve the conflict opposing them. The meeting, which was held on 7 March 1987, was a failure due to the Libyan delegation. This, however, has not altered the Chadian Government's continuing readiness for dialogue. But the chances for a peaceful settlement of the Chadian conflict today have dwindled more than ever, for the Tripoli anti-peace regime is not cooperating for this settlement. Instead, it is determined to continue its colonial war in Chad and extend it to the entire subregion.

Regarding the Sudanese mediation, it seems increasingly certain that Al-Qadhdhafi believed in it insofar as it allows him to save time and divert international attention from the Libyan military maneuvers in northern and eastern Chad. When one takes a close look at Al-Qadhdhafi's thoughtless military maneuvers on Sudanese territory, one can accurately say the authorities in Khartoum are preaching in the wilderness if they believe in Libya's willingness to negotiate.

As for the Sudanese press, it does not believe in the Libyan leadership's sincerity in this affair. The Sudanese newspaper, (*Al-Aduar*), in its 14 March 1987 issue, revealed that the Sudanese Armed Forces have asked the Libyan forces, which entered the Sudanese territory to attack Chad, to leave the country immediately. But, (*Al-Aduar*) does not take into consideration the report that the Libyan troops have started withdrawing from the Sudanese territory. Another two Sudanese newspapers, it seems, have not even considered the possibility that the Libyans have begun withdrawing their troops. (*Al-Sudani*) and (*Al-Haya*), both quoting witnesses who recently returned from Darfour, have stated that the Libyan troops are effectively in this border region of Chad and are being strengthened.

Under the headlines "The Libyan Army Exists in Darfour," (*Al-Sudani*) notes an impressive Libyan presence at Karnaui, north of (Katem) and in the (Idal Keir) and (Adkir) regions. The Libyan forces are strengthening their presence in some localities situated north of (Katan). The newspaper, furthermore, adds that these exercises have intimidated people there and created a kind of terror. As for (*Al-Haya*), quoting the statement of a high-ranking delegation of the People's Islamic Front, a Sudanese political party, confirms the presence of foreign troops inside the western borders of Sudan in the (El Benena), (Isal Keir), (Karnarai), (Al Tino), (Kolvut), and (Ouadiour) regions and the violation of the Sudanese airspace by foreign war aircraft — that is Libyan troops and war aircraft. Giving more details on the situation, (*Al-Haya*) announces a concentration of Libyan troops in other localities in the Darfour region, among which it mentions (Abu Zardia), (Abu Daka), (Amboro), and (Oudi Sadia), and in the Guirguir regions near the (Tam) basin.

As can be seen, these revelations by the Sudanese press late last week have shed a new light on the situation, and they are also surprising. They show us that, while the Chadian and Libyan delegations were holding discussions in Khartoum in the presence of the Sudanese Government representatives, the Libyan troops continued their preparations for attacking Chad from Sudanese territory.

Not only does the Sudanese press formally deny the statements aimed at making people believe the Libyan troops have started withdrawing from Sudan, they make us wonder the true reasons behind the actions of that country's authorities in the face of a

situation that is serious for Chad, as well as for Sudan and the rest of the countries in the subregion. This situation is serious primarily because the inhabitants in Sudan's Darfour Province, like those of the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti region of Chad, have been experiencing the adverse effects of the Libyan troops' presence on their soil.

We are, certainly, far from calling into question the Sudanese Government's desire to see peace prevail in Chad and in our region. But the restoration and the safeguarding of this peace depends on the desire and the ability of our leadership to stand up to foil the apocalyptical ambitions of the Tripoli regime. Let us be clear, it is not only the affair of the Chadian Government and people, which have accepted their responsibilities and will continue to assume them, but it is also the affair of all the African states and peoples, including first our closest neighbors.

Chadians, who are not under any illusion about Libya's arbitrary role, still hope, however, to see the bellicose Tripoli regime return to its senses one day through the force of circumstances; that is, with the support of peace-loving, freedom- and justice-seeking countries. But for the time being, the Chadian people, determined and mobilized, will repulse with their last bit of energy, an enemy attack, regardless of its origin.

Lassou Makes Address on Ouadi Doum Recapture

AB231320 Paris AFP in English 1243 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Ndjamena, March 23 (AFP) — Thousands of Chadians gathered here Monday to celebrate the reported capture by government forces of the important Libya-held base of Ouadi Doum in the north of the country.

Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou told the crowd that soon they would be "liberating" the contested Aozou Strip of the border with Libya which Tripoli occupied in 1973. [passage omitted]

The demonstrators here Monday, called out by the ruling National Union for Independence and Revolution, shouted for the recapture of the whole of the north of Chad. They handed in a message of support for President Habre to the foreign minister, who was representing the head of state. Other senior civilian and military officials were also present.

Mr Gouara Lassou predicted that the "final assault" would come soon, but acknowledged that there was much to be done before the Libyans were driven out.

However, he said that under the string of government successes, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi "can no longer sleep."

There were still no details Monday of the fighting at Ouadi Doum, but the Armed Forces chief of staff said the casualties would be heavy because of the violence of the fighting. [passage omitted]

Ndjamena Reports Weapons Captured at Ouadi Doum

AB231742 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Ouadi Doum finally fell into the hands of the enterprising freedom fighters. Yet the locality, by its very nature of being overarmed by the barbaric Tripoli regime, was more than a fortress, a real (?base) for the Libyans. Ouadi Doum, the strategic fortress taken by the aggressor troops of Libya, in the northern part of our country, represents [words indistinct] and so nobody could imagine that this locality could fall into the hands of our valiant freedom fighters, for more than 5,000 invaders armed with highly sophisticated weapons guarded Ouadi Doum. [passage omitted]

Here is the total amount of weapons (?captured): One 35 fighter helicopter [as heard], 2 *MiG-21's*, [names of weapons indistinct]. These aircraft fighters are mostly of Soviet make. The anti-aircraft system of the enemy comprised [words indistinct] including the fearful SAM-7.

Apart from the 25 [names of weapons indistinct] the Tripoli (?warmongers) posess (?66) T-54 and T-55 tanks. Also seized in Ouadi Doum were (?3) [words indistinct], 21-35 tank carriers, 2 tanker trucks, and 150 vehicles, some of which use radars. From early January 1986 to the time of the fall of Fada [words indistinct]. The victory, which the Chadian National Armed Forces have just won, is a victory that will be written in golden letters in the annals of the history of our country. Ouadi Doum honors the Chadian Armed Forces.

Libyans Said To Bomb Ouadi Doum; MiG Downed

AU232145 Paris AFP in English 2136 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Paris, March 23 (AFP) — Libyan warplanes on Monday bombed Wadi Doum, the former Libyan base in northern Chad reportedly captured by Chadian Government forces Sunday, Chadian Embassy officials here said.

The officials did not give details on the intensity of the attack, but said a Libyan *MiG* fighter had been shot down by Chadian forces. [passage omitted]

There were still no details Monday on the taking of the base, where 5,000 Libyan troops and their allies were said to have been based. With its 3,800 meter (4,000 yard) runway, it was essential for the transport of troops and equipment from Libya.

Experts said the capture endangered the last remaining Libyan base, the big palm grove of Faya Largeau, 150 kms (90 miles) to the southwest, where some 3,000 Libyans are based.

Tripoli Cites Bardai Report of Action at Arda

LD231522 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Radio Bardai has reported a statement issued by a GUNT military spokesman. It stated:

An armed group of GUNT forces has attacked the area of Arda and (?Kuna). The attack inflicted the following casualties on the enemy:

1. A watch point at the entrance of the area was blown up.

2. Six of Habre's forces were killed and a number of others captured; 19 of them were tried and accused of committing inhuman crimes against Chadian fellow citizens; they were all executed following a court ruling.

3. A number of cars and carriers were destroyed, the details of which are as follows: A car depot containing 2 (?May) trucks, a Mercedes truck loaded with fuel, and a Bedford truck loaded with ammunition, were destroyed and set on fire. A Land Rover that tried to get away was also destroyed, and those inside were either killed or injured.

The only loss the GUNT forces suffered was a damaged land-cruiser whose occupants have returned safely with their comrades.

Interior Minister To Meet Oueddei in Algeria

PM231518 Paris LE MONDE in French 21 Mar 87 p 4

["F.F." dispatch: "Interior Minister Meets Goukouni Oueddei in Algiers]

[Text] Algiers — Chadian Interior Minister Mahamat Itno and the Chadian ambassador to Paris arrived in Algiers on Wednesday 18 March at the head of a large delegation to meet with the Algerian authorities and to establish contact with former GUNT Chairman Goukouni Oueddei. The presence of this delegation has not been announced by the Algerian press; great secrecy surrounds this visit to Algeria where Goukouni Oueddei has been living for 6 weeks since his departure from Tripoli. He has had a villa reserved for him for several years at the Club des Pins near Algiers. Goukouni Oueddei has not yet had the opportunity to meet with the press, but he has been able to talk with several opponents of Hissein Habre's regime with a view to possible negotiations with the existing Ndjamena government.

At all events, the Algerian initiatives have made it possible to establish relations between the Ndjamena government and Goukouni Oueddei. The latter met with President Habre's special envoy 3 weeks ago and with several leaders of GUNT factions that have rallied to Ndjamena since last November when Acheikh ibn Omar was appointed GUNT leader under pressure from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

Habre Talks With IMF Delegation 21 March

AB231705 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Despite the war going on in our country, Chad is aware of the need to revamp the national economy. A delegation from the World Bank and the IMF is on Chadian soil and was received by President Hissein Habre yesterday.

(Marc Lonlai), the leader of the IMF delegation, told our reporter, Aba Ali Kaya, about the discussions he held with President Hissein Habre.

[Begin recording] [Lonlai] We had the honor to discuss the economic and financial situation in Chad, taking into account the difficult situation brought about primarily by the drop in cotton prices on the international market. The World Bank believes the Chadian authorities are making great efforts to maintain their (?military) expenses within the imposed limits. We told the head of state that the IMF, the World Bank, and the Chadian authorities agreed to issue an outline document on a medium-term policy that, we hope, will enable Chad to have the right to benefit from IMF international grants.

[Ali Kaya] It is precisely because of this economic crisis that the Chadian Government called on your institution. Under what conditions would the IMF grant aid to Chad?

[Lonlai] We would be willing to help Chad if we had sufficient information to assess the management factor from the authorities to take positive measures that could convince Chad's friends to grant adequate aid to your country. We have great hopes in this field. [end recording]

ZAIRE

Mobutu Warns Against 'Economic Operators'

AB202230 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Excerpts] [Announcer] It is becoming more and more difficult these days to depend on economic operators — of all nationalities — who are only interested in profits, speculation, and sapping the Zairian economy, thus reducing the people to misery and pushing them on to revolt. The Republic of Zaire, a young and developing country, must therefore look for other support in building its economy. This is the sad and unfortunate, but true, observation made during the meeting of the steering committee of the MPR Central Committee, which took place in Gbadolite yesterday under the chairmanship of Mobutu Sese Seko.

The economic operators and commercial banks established in Zaire have been behaving inadmissibly, and we have to act accordingly. Vouvoua Yatige [second news reader], you read and reread the report of this meeting of the steering committee of the MPR Central Committee.

[Yatige] Supporting his statement with proof, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko severely criticized the behaviour of economic operators and commercial banks who have engaged in fraud, currency smuggling, and hording goods. This is what Citizen Nesenzina Tshabalina, the secretary reporter of the steering committee of the MPR Central Committee, said in the report. The head of state expressed the conviction that Zaire, a young and developing country, can no longer depend only on the business sector for its economic and social development and that the Republic of Zaire must henceforth act accordingly. According to the report, the essential element of this chapter is that the leader of the party state and his assistants on the steering committee of the Central

Committee have observed that despite the liberal system of trade, it is becoming increasingly difficult to depend on the economic operators — both national and foreign — whose only objective is making profits, speculating, and systematically sapping the country's economic base. In this way, the economic operators reduce the people to misery and push them onto revolt against state authority. [passage omitted]

Regarding the UNTZA [National Union of Zairian Workers], the founding chairman has charged its officials, together with those of the civil service department, to present to him a technical document of suggestions on the salary review of civil servants and professionals in the state's public service.

During the working session that the founding chairman held with the members of the Central Committee steering committee, the report continued, the party leader informed the officials of the result of his American, European, and African tours. On the occasion, they discussed the economic and social situation of the country. On political issues, they observed that calm continues to prevail throughout the national territory. The preparations for the celebration of the party's 20th anniversary are going well and the activities for the mobilization and training of the masses are in accordance with the directives of the party state.

Concerning the economy, the founding chairman briefed his assistants on the contacts he made in Washington with the IMF and World Bank Headquarters. The delegates to these organizations have ended negotiations with the Executive Council during a recent mission in Kinshasa.

Foreign Affairs Head Cited on Talks With CAR

AB201340 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0745 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Kinshasa, 19 March [date as received] (AZAP) — Zaire and the CAR signed three new cooperation agreements in the fields of public health, border and customs trade, and agriculture. This was disclosed to AZAP yesterday by Citizen Kabala Kisekaseka, secretary of state for foreign affairs, on his return from Bangui where he headed a Zairian delegation to the deliberations of the 2d session of the Zaire-CAR joint permanent commission.

Held from 16 to 18 March, this session, he added, enabled the participants to look into the problems of cooperation between the two countries and to examine the implementation of existing agreements; namely, the Mobayi Mbongo Dam construction scheme, whose technical implications will be studied at a subsequent meeting by the experts of the National Electricity Company and the CAR Electricity Company. Moreover, the participants raised the problems of poaching and legal cooperation.

The next session, for which no date was given, will be held in Zaire in 1988.

BURKINA FASO

Government Aims for Economic Self-Sufficiency

AB201528 Paris AFP in French 0741 GMT 20 Mar 87

["Burkina Faso in Search of Its National Economic Self-Sufficiency" by Jean Claude Fiol]

[Summary] Ouagadougou, 20 Mar (AFP) — Burkina Faso's authorities, in power for 3 years now, have decided to move the country's economy toward achieving national economic self-sufficiency and to convince the people to consume local-made goods to save foreign exchange. Head of State Captain Thomas Sankara has already promulgated a number of ordinances to promote this new policy.

Last August, on the occasion of the anniversary of the revolution, he reaffirmed the political desire of the CNR, the highest organ, to end Burkina Faso's dependence and halt the deterioration of its economic and social situation, which he said has been a victim of the world economic crisis. Launched last August, the First 5-year People's Development Plan is aimed at building an independent, self-sufficient, and planned economy to serve a new society. The Burkinabe ruling authorities are firmly determined to increase the country's production capability to ensure its domestic consumption and to try to increase the export market, in particular in the agricultural and mining areas.

The 1987 budget emphasizes national production and the exploitation of all the country's resources. According to published figures, the government has approved a budget deficit of 12 billion CFA francs in this year's total budget of nearly 100 billion CFA francs. The previous budget was a little less than 84 billion CFA francs, and it was balanced.

Good harvests in 1985 and 1986 enabled the country to again achieve food self-sufficiency, and the last millet-sorghum harvest, estimated officially at 1.8 million metric tons, enabled the country to set aside a 20,000 metric tons surplus. In January, the government launched a national campaign for the collection of cereals to avoid speculation, encourage farmers to produce, and stabilize food self-sufficiency.

Burkina Faso intends to develop small-scale gold mining in the desert regions of the north of the country. Its 1986 production, estimated by reliable sources at a little more than one and a half tons, should increase within the framework of the 5-year plan to 3.4 tons in 1990, according to forecasts.

The official objective of this better exploitation of resources is to make surplus money to cope with debt servicing and to finance development. Foreign debts servicing — some 8.5 billion CFA francs for 1987, roughly the same figure as in previous years — is still not considered by experts to be high as compared with many African countries.

Apart from these actions within the framework of the plan, Burkinabe leaders have decided on a fiscal reform to get new sources of income to offset decreasing customs income due to a reduction of imports. This fiscal pressure is accompanied by austere and restrictive budgetary measures in the public sector, including reducing salaries of civil servants, which according to published figures account for more than 45 billion CFA francs, or more than 40 percent of total budgetary expenses.

State-owned firms were recently criticized by the authorities for what was considered bad management and excessive manpower. The government also seriously studied and implemented reforms in the private sector to encourage setting up cooperatives by facilitating the so-called informal sector of the economy and by introducing a new investment code.

GHANA

Paper Warns Against Togolese Security Activities

AB232128 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Mar 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the heading: Making Enemies Out of Brothers, the *Ghanaian Voice* expresses concern about the activities of Togolese security agencies along the border with Ghana. The paper makes it clear that the border stands recognized internationally and that any act to infringe on what is rightly Ghanaian territory will not be taken lightly.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Netherlands

AB232056 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Ghana and the Netherlands today signed an agreement under which Ghana is to receive a grant of $7.5 million from the Netherlands Government. The grant, which is to be disbursed in 1988, is partially tied in that goods and services to be procured under it must have their origin either in the Netherlands or in developing countries. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

Paper on Educational Reform; Students Discontent

AB232132 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Mar 87

[From the press review]

[Text] The *Ghanaian Times* again examines the new educational reform against the background of opposition by some students in the universities. It says it appears that for whatever purpose they seek to serve, some people are interested in condemning the new educational reform without trying to understand its implication, and even when they do not know how it will affect the third cycle level of education. The *Times* says unlike the reform proposal for the first and the second cycle, which have proved feasible and are ready for implementation, the proposals for the third level cycle, mainly the universities, are still being examined; and the government has said it very firmly that no final action will be taken until the exercise is completed. It is therefore not clear what some elements in the universities are standing against. The *Times* adds that if the few troublemakers at the universities seek to

precipitate a crisis, they should be prepared to bear the consequences without harming the future of the innocent majority at the campuses, who they may coerce or mislead into actions that are uncalled for.

LIBERIA

500 Said Denied Citizenship, To Go to Ghana

AB201525 Paris AFP in English 0735 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Monrovia, March 20 (AFP) — Some 500 Liberians reportedly born in Ghana have threatened to leave the country because of a refusal by immigration authorities here to grant them citizenship, the *Daily Star* newspaper reported Thursday.

Quoting a spokesman for the group, the paper said that although most were born in Ghana of Liberian parents and some of Ghanaian mothers, they were being denied Liberian citizenship.

The spokesman said they were being harassed at checkpoints by immigration officials who were only interested in knowing their place of birth. He said the group had unanimously decided to return to Ghana because Liberia had failed to recognize them as citizens.

Immigration authorities have denied the charges, saying many aliens, including Ghanaians, continue to falsify Liberian citizenship.

Many Liberians left the country in the early 1940s for Ghana because of forced labour under the rule of Liberian President Edwin Barclay.

NIGERIA

Kaduna Radio Condemns Reported Killings in Benin

AB201605 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Some time ago, we had cause to talk about our national security. At that time we pointed out the apparent danger in Equatorial Guinea, allowing its soil as spyhole against this country. [sentence as heard] Happiliy, shortly after, that country's president was here to assure us that he would not allow his country to be used to harm Nigeria. However, the other problems we pointed out which face Nigerians the world over, such as (?malnutrition), killing, and wanton destruction of property, still persist. Challenges to our patience and, indeed, our sisterly overtures have been [words indistinct].

Nigerians have been killed or brutalized in the United Kingdom and the United States. Some semblance of half-hearted investigations have been carried out. Matters rested there, and no further, as far as we are concerned, because nothing futher was made public.

Now and again sister African countries, who often try to tread on our goodwill and charity, have either molested, killed, or maltreated Nigerians in their countries. Some even ventured to come into our own territory to commit their acts. [Words indistinct] to the detriment of kith and kin.

[Word indistinct] in this week's edition of *Newsweek* magazine on page 27, under the West African news from Benin Republic is another story captioned: "Nigerians Killed." Reading it, one would discover that four Nigerians, including an old man and a baby, three cows, and property worth several thousands of naira have been killed and destroyed. The Nigerians were killed, according to the report, on mere suspicion. But what is more, Benin's security personnel just looked on when the atrocities were being committed, and so far no arrests have been made despite our ambassador's protest.

Now, what does that portray? Is it that a Nigerian's life is so insignificant that anyone can crush it as one would crush a beetle? Why is it that Nigeria has advanced so far in [words indistinct] lives of its citizens [words indisitinct]. Do we take such attitude because we are the leading black nation on the continent? Why is it that those that perpetuate such acts are our next-door neighbors? Is it because they know that we only growl and let things be?

Whatever the answers may be, one thing is clear, and it is that there is no use in returning fire for fire with Britain or the United States over Nigerian Airways, visas, or what have you, while closer to home our so-called neighbors are playing with the lives and property of our citizens. [passage indistinct] Yet we seem to tolerate them.

Is it therefore a good turn being returned by the Beninese, when its security agents stand by while Nigerians were killed and their property destroyed? We think that enough should be really enough!

SIERRA LEONE

Attackers 'Overcome,' Situation 'Under Control'

AB231457 Freetown Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] The government would like to inform the general public that the [words indistinct] incident which took place in Freetown last night [words indistinct] innocent citizens of this country. The preliminary details of which are as follows: walking parade (?solliciting) support, [words indistinct] in Freetown last night, and on arriving at the scene [words indistinct] shot dead.

Meanwhile, the security forces were able to overcome the attackers [words indistinct]. The (?majority of the attackers) have already been arrested and a full-fledged investigation is now under way. The general public is assured that the situation is under control. All involved will be soon brought to justice. Members of the public are (?requested to help the police in their investigations). Other announcements will be issued for the information of the general public [words indistinct].

Police Official Arrested

AB231650 Paris AFP in French 1552 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Freetown, 23 Mar (AFP) — A high-ranking Sierra Leonean police official, Gabriel Kaikai, the assistant director of the police, suspected of having attempted to organize an attack against President Joseph Momoh and the members of his government, has been arrested after a gun battle during the night of 22 March to 23 March, it has been learned from police sources. The situation was calm today in the Sierra Leonean capital and military patrols were circulating in town.

According to the police, the attack was to have taken place this morning on a bridge where the plotters, led by Gabriel Kaikai, had planned to attack the presidential convoy with rocket launchers.

A shootout, which is said to have resulted in the death of one person, ensued at 1300 near Gabriel Kaikai's residence. According to witnesses, the exchange of fire lasted for 3 hours before the security forces managed to arrest some 15 persons, including Gabriel Kaikai, who was formerly the head of the special security services of former President Siaka Stevens. Former President Stevens, who installed Momoh as president, is no longer on good terms with him, and is seeking to run the country from behind the scenes, according to rumors circulating in Freetown.

According to explanations given by the police headquarters, National Army members figure among the 15 persons arrested.

Gabriel Kaikai had been appointed to be head of the presidential police special services division by Siaka Stevens, who had also appointed him to head the Anticorruption Brigade.

Gabriel Kaikai, who was superintendent of police after President Joseph Momoh's coming to power, was demoted at the beginning of this year and was appointed to the post of assistant to the director of police after he was found guilty of fraud during the May 1986 legislative elections.

A commission of inquiry, in fact, established that he had attempted to intimidate and to influence voters in a constituency where his wife, Amy Kallon Kaikai, was a candidate.

Last week, a tribunal nullified the election of Mrs Amy Kallon Kaikai, a former minister of state for education.

This first coup attempt against President Momoh — the first since his coming to power in 1985 — came at a time when Sierra Leone is experiencing a very serious economic crisis and when the value of national currency, the leone, has been declining steadily. Its value has now fallen to 50 leones to the dollar.

Investigation Continues

AB241337 Paris AFP in English 1257 GMT 24 Mar 87

[By Rod Mac-Johnson]

[Text] Freetown, March 24 (AFP) — Security forces remained on the alert here Tuesday and were guarding key points in the capital a day after the authorities said they had foiled a planned coup attempt against the 15-month-old administration of President Joseph Momoh.

The 20 alleged plotters so far arrested, mainly members or ex-members of the police or Armed Forces, have been taken to a maximum security central prison. Most were arrested Sunday night in a Freetown house after a three-hour shootout in which a police driver was killed. Police said they planned to ambush President Momoh's motorcade Monday on a bridge it crossed every day between his home and his office.

The leader of the plot is said to be Mohamed Gabriel Kaikai, who commanded the special security police under former President Siaka Stevens. He was then appointed head of an anti-corruption brigade, but was demoted last week after the election of his wife Amy was declared void by the High Court.

The chief of the investigation, Assistant Commissioner of Police Prince Cole, said Tuesday that many weapons had been found at the official home of Mrs. Kaikai, who was also minister of state for education, culture and sports until the court decision. Mr. Prince said the arms so far discovered were enough to destabilise the government. They include rocket launchers, rifles, anti-aircraft guns, a huge quantity of hand grenades and trunks containing camouflage uniforms.

Police have been taking Mr. Kaikai to various locations in the capital in a bid to discover further arms cache.

Road blocks have been set up in key areas of the city but there are no reports of searches being made.

Meanwhile all further conventions of the ruling All People's Congress (APC) party have been suspended until further notice. First affected is the three-day Pujehun District convention which was due to start Friday.

Police said Tuesday their investigations had been extended to the provinces, particularly Pujehun, which borders Liberia.

They identified some of those arrested as Assistant Superintendent of Police Samuel Benjamin, a sergeant major in the Armed Forces, and a lance-corporal related to Mr. Kaikai.

The city meanwhile remains calm, with the state radio broadcasting periodically a government release assuring the public that the situation is under control and that those involved will be speedingly brought to justice.

Reaction to the alleged plot has been muted, although the parliament in a resolution Monday condemned what it called, "The action of some ill-disposed persons in their attempt to overthrow the legitimate and constitutionally elected government by force of arms." The resolution described the incident as "an attack" on President Momoh and members of his government.

The discovery of the plot, the first since President Momoh came to power in 1985, could increase his popularity, which had slumped because of the country's worsening economic position.

President Momoh's succession to the veteran head of state Siaka Stevens was welcomed at the time, but he has been unable to satisfy the general desire for reform or stem the endemic corruption.

Mr. Stevens, 83, continues to enjoy a great deal of influence as head of the party, aided by the big businessmen of mainly Lebanese origin who control the import of basic items, the export of diamonds and the currency market.

Party sources were predicting a showdown between Mr. Stevens and President Momoh at the next APC National Congress which is in preparation. Speculation is rife here that Mr. Kaikai, a strong supporter of Mr. Stevens, was trying to ensure who won.

Party sources said Tuesday there was some evidence of foreign involvement, possibly from a Middle East country. A government spokesman would only say, "We shall leave no stone unturned to get to the botton of it all."

MOZAMBIQUE

Guebuza Returns From 2-Week Visit to PRC

MB231445 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Frelimo Party Political Bureau member Armando Guebuza returned home today from a visit to the People's Republic of China. Armando Guebuza told Radio Mozambique that his 2-week visit had strengthened bilateral relations and given him greater experience, particularly in the fields of agriculture and small-scale enterprises.

New Accords Signed, Contracts Formalized With GDR

MB240546 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Mozambique and the GDR have signed new cooperation accords and formalized contracts that had been under discussion for some time. This was revealed by Alfredo Gamito, secretary of state for cashew nuts, in Maputo yesterday. Speaking shortly after his arrival from the GDR, where he headed the Mozambican representation at the Leipzig Fair, Alfredo Gamito said Mozambique showed what it can offer on competitive quality terms, notably cashew nuts, copra, sisal, citron fruit, asbestos, and wooden pressboards.

Mocumbi Returns From Socialist International

MB231902 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Three Mozambican Government ministers who have been visiting three different countries returned to Maputo this morning. [as heard] They are Political Bureau member of the Frelimo Party who is transport minister, Armando Guebuza, Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi, and Cultural Minister Louis Bernardo Honwana. [passage omitted]

Speaking after arrival in Maputo this morning, Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi said the Socialist International meeting in Lusaka agreed that apartheid is the root cause of instability in the region. Dr Mocumbi said the Lusaka meeting, which ended at the weekend, said the struggle against apartheid must of necessity be global.

Meanwhile, the Lusaka meeting between the Socialist International Coordination Bureau and the Frontline States agreed on the necessity to take urgent measures to assist Angola and Mozambique to (?help) eliminate the South African-backed MNR terrorists. It also called for an increased support to the liberation movements fighting against colonialism in Namibia and against apartheid in South Africa.

'Bandits' Recapture Five District Centers

MB231915 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1749 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Tete March 23, SAPA — Five district centres were overrun by armed bandits of the MNR earlier this month in the northern Tete Province of Mozambique the semi-official Zimbabwean news agency (ZIANA) reports. The centres of Catipo, Matsatsa, Caprisange, Condedzi and Somoa were attacked from March 8, the district administrator of Moatize about five kilometres from Tete, Mr Nicalau Zalimba, said in an interview with ZIANA.

"There were five centres where we had people liberated from the armed bandits but at the beginning of this month the centres were recaptured and the people fled in the thousands to Moatize," he said.

These endless battles stalled plans for thousands of war displaced people to return to their homes because Moatize was becoming overcrowded with the influx of more than 10,000 people since the end of last year, including refugees returning from Malawi.

There are more than 70,000 refugees from the armed bandit war in camps in Malawi.

Two refugee centres at Moatize and another at Benga, about 30km away, lack basic facilities.

In one of the Moatize centres 1,504 people registered on arrival were sleeping in the open air in unsanitary conditions. Some tents have been provided by the Department for the Prevention and Combat of Natural Disasters.

In another camp 7,981 people were living in railway carriages. Living conditions at the old railyard were appalling with a serious lack of basic human facilities.

At Benga 1,063 refugees took over the huts abandoned by villagers who fled armed bandit attacks earlier this year. This are being protected by Frelimo soldiers and militiamen.

More houses were being built at Benga settlement but the area is unsuitable for agriculture and is threatened by serious drought and overcrowding. Some of the displaced people have come from as far as Sofala and Zambezia Provinces in central Mozambique where bandit attacks were rife.

Most fled to Malawi last year and have been staying in poor conditions in refugee camps there.

The Moatize centres were receiving refugees from Malawi at the rate of about 50 a day.

Mr Zalimba said that because the centres at Moatize were getting full, most of the returnees were now being sent to Benga.

The 1980 census put the population of Moatize at 45,000 but a survey in December last year found there were nearly 100,000 people living in the small district centre.

"Due to the drought and armed bandit actions people have abandoned their fields and fled into towns in search of food and security," said Mr Zalimba.

The entire area north of the Zambezia River in Tete Province was in the hands of the armed bandits. The rebels also control major district centres at Fingoe, Chifunde and Furancungo bordering Malawi. The district centre near the border with Zambia is like a ghost town.

SOUTH AFRICA

'Explosive Device' Causes Soweto Station Blast

MB240449 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2045 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Johannesburg, Mar 23, SAPA — Railway lines were "ruptured by an explosive device" near the Dube station in Johannesburg's Soweto township late this afternoon, a spokesman for the Bureau of Information confirmed tonight.

The spokesman said no one had been injured and no trains were damaged "as the line was not in operation at the time."

He said it was close to the Dube station and exploded at 5:27pm today.

He added police were still trying to determine the nature of the explosive device and said the bureau would give information "as soon as it came in."

P.W. Botha Cuts Single on Reasons To Vote NP

MB231939 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1923 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Cape Town, March 23, SAPA — The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, was today presented with a "golden record" for his propaganda single "Why You Should Vote NP."

At a special ceremony at the Cape National Party's Headquarters he was presented with the first 400,000 copies of the disc, which is to be distributed among voters for the May 6 House of Assembly election.

He was awarded the gold disc because, according to the producer, the record — one side in English and the other in Afrikaans — was the highest pressing of a single ever undertaken in South Africa.

Thanking the producers Mr Botha quipped: "Something worse could have happened to the voters — I could have sung."

He said the record represented an attempt to speak to as many voters as possible on the issues on which they had to decide.

"This is not, as I have heard some say his master's voice but a fellow South African talking to fellow South Africans in a spirit to dedication."

On the disc, Mr Botha speaks directly to listeners, without musical accompaniment, saying that in these times of sanctions, participation in the election would prove to the outside world a determination to resolve problems.

On the economy: "I assure you of exciting times ahead."

South Africa has to broaden its base of democracy in order not to fall prey to communism and to ensure the safety of the country. The NP guarantees "your safety and peace of mind against internal unrest," the state president says.

"Discriminatory practices belong to the past," Mr Botha tells voters in his record.

"Today's realities call for single minded reform and dedicated negotiations, however difficult."

A National Party vote would provide a mandate for a say in all mutual affairs and self-determiantion for all groups.

"For these reform processes we need a great indaba," Mr Botha says. Such negotiations had to produce a unique political system for the Republic of South Africa which protected minority rights and avoided group domination.

Pik Botha Seeks 'Message of Unity' From Voters

MB240617 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says that if the white voters do not send a strong message of unity to the outside world, further sanctions will be introduced against South Africa. Mr Botha said at a meeting in Johannesburg that this message of unity had to be sent to those advocating violence. Foreign investors would be persuaded to invest in the country as the feeling of unity would end the violence in the country. It would also give the government an opportunity to continue with its negotiations to involve black people in decision-making and power sharing without the domination of one group over another.

PAC Spokesman Denies Drug Trafficking Charges

MB231647 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 23 Mar 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The Central Committee of the Pan-Africanist Congress seems to be in some disarray. Just over a week ago, three members walked out of a meeting and said they had resigned because of alleged skulduggery. They accused the PAC of raising funds by smuggling hard drugs and stolen cars, but the PAC leadership is hitting back. They claim that the three did not resign but were kicked out and were now being spiteful. On the line to Dar es Salaam, Julian Borger asked the PAC's foreign affairs man, Gora Ebrahim, what about the allegation of drug smuggling:

[Begin recording] [Ebrahim] I want to categorically state here that the PAC as an organization has never trafficked in drugs. It is totally opposed to the trafficking of drugs and has asked all its members to be vigilant on the question of anybody who traffics drugs. And what we are now dealing with is not a trafficking of drugs but deliberate rumors that the PAC is involved in it. We are asking anyone who is peddling these rumors to come up with concrete evidence so that we can take the appropriate action. We cannot institute an inquiry or whatever have you on rumors. We need some facts on which to base any inquiry.

[Borger] But, nevertheless, it does sound with all these people leaving the Central Committee like you are having very serious leadership problems.

[Ebrahim] No. I want to point out something here: It is wrong to assume that people are leaving. They are not leaving the PAC. In fact, we have taken disciplinary action on them and it is a reflection of a strong leadership that is willing to take action. That is what is now manifesting itself, not a weak leadership.

[Borger] So what you are saying is you had a purge?

[Ebrahim] I am not saying we had a purge. I am saying that the PAC leadership is now becoming qualitatively far better in that people are now asked to account for their actions and for their end, and also for the statements they make. This will send a strong message to the other members that, well, you have to be accountable for what you do. [end recording]

Buthelezi Lists 'Nonnegotiables' for Negotiation

MB231722 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1718 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Ulundi, March 23, SAPA — Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said today neither the armed struggle nor the state president, Mr P.W. Botha's initiative could succeed without Inkatha.

Chief Buthelezi told the secretary-general of Portugal's Social Democratic Party, Mr Luis Geraldes, MP, that it was Inkatha's opposition to the homelands policy that had ended Mr Botha's "dream" of a constellation of southern African states.

The KwaZulu chief minister and Inkatha president said there had to be compromises and respect for all points of view in the politics of negotiation which he supported as leader of Inkatha and as the elected head of the seven million Zulus who were South Africa's largest ethnic group.

Black and white leaders needed to reach consensus about what was non-negotiable. For him the criteria were based on whether or not the sacrificing of a principle would be self-defeating in achieving the aims of such negotiation, said Chief Buthelezi.

He spelt out his non-negotiables as:

— One sovereign parliament in which all races shared;

— Universal adult franchise;

— The "unshackling" of black democracy — which included the release of political leaders.

Chief Buthelezi said no black leaders could negotiate with white leaders on an equal footing while black democracy remained shackled and white democracy was made relatively unfree by the absence of similar black rights.

It was, therefore, necessary to urge the government to release such prisoners as the African National Congress jailed leader Mr Nelson Mandela and the PAC's Mr Zeph Mothopeng.

He said organisations such as the ANC which were now hostile to negotiation would then be in a position to determine where they stood.

"If we are going to have negotiations which have any hope of succeeding in our country, black leaders need to test that which is being negotiated about against black public opinion. They cannot do so effectively if black democracy remains shackled."

SABC News Staff Reject Alleged Election Bias

MB231653 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] News staff of the SABC today distanced themselves from press reports about the alleged bias of the SABC in the handling of the election. A group of about 200 radio and television news journalists also distanced themselves during an open discussion with the director general of the SABC from anonymous letters and leakages to the press about large-scale dissatisfaction in the SABC, and particularly in the news department. News staff identified themselves wholeheartedly with the election guidelines of the SABC, reconfirmed unanimously their loyalty to the SABC, and rejected the press allegations in their entirety.

At the meeting, the director general of the SABC, Mr Riaan Eksteen, said that at the outset of the election campaign the SABC had given the undertaking that fairness would be the yardstick by which it would measure its news coverage of the election on radio and television. He said that statistics and an objective evaluation had confirmed that, until now, the SABC had honored its undertaking.

Mr Eksteen said that facts concerning the handling of the election by the SABC loudly and clearly contradicted accusations of alleged bias. The corporation had no choice other than to reject such accusations as unsubstantiated and malicious. Mr Eksteen said that no one could any longer have any doubt that the credibility of the SABC had become, for some, a definite target which had to be damaged or even destroyed at all costs. He said that some staff members believed that they also had a role to play in this respect.

Mr Eksteen said that there was no art in writing anonymous letters and telling stories to the press. On the contrary, they proved that ulterior motives were paramount, even when the accusations failed to fit the facts. He said that a definite plan of

action had been adopted to pay attention to the question of morale among staff of the SABC, and to get results.

'Last Effort' Fails for CP-HNP Election Pact

MB240612 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] The last effort to bring about an election pact between the Conservative Party and the HNP has failed. Our political correspondent reports that it is almost certain that the two parties will oppose each other in more than 80 constituencies in the general election of 6 May. Renewed efforts by mediators during the past week to get the two parties to agree on an election pact were abandoned last night.

The chief mediator, the AWB, said in a statement that the leader of the HNP, Mr Jaap Marais, refused to sign an agreement by which he had to withdraw as a candidate in the Hercules constituency in exchange for the Roodeplaat constituency. The AWB said on the other hand the CP was willing to implement an agreement between the two parties, but added that negotiations could no longer be postponed.

Mr Marais said he could not accept the proposals as it meant that he as party leader would not receive a seat. He said he was not willing to make himself available as candidate in Roodeplaat in place of his chairman, Mr Willie Marais.

The executive secretary of the conservative CP, Dr Franz van Staden, says it is regrettable that the HNP did not want to sign the agreement after all the parties accepted earlier proposals by the mediators. Dr van Staden also denied that the proposals did not make provision for a seat for Mr Jaap Marais. He said the CP had been willing to withdraw MP Mr Jan van Zyl as candidate in Wonderboom to enable Mr Willie Marais to stand there, and Mr Marais to contest Roodeplaat. He also said although there were only 8 days left before nomination day it was not too late for the HNP to change its attitude.

Information Bureau Issues 23 Mar Unrest Report

MB241039 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1036 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria March 24 SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Information's daily unrest report:

"Unrest report period 00h01 to 24h00 (23 March)

"A group of about 50 black persons threw stones at a broken-down bus of the Nkoshilo School at Dinkiestrust (Graskop) yesterday. Five schoolgirls were taken from the bus and raped while a schoolboy was stuck in the back with a knife. Three black men under, and two over, the age of 18, were arrested on criminal charges and 9 others were arrested under the emergency regulations. The investigation is continuing.

"The second man in two days was killed by a group of black persons in KwaMashu (Durban) yesterday. The group of radical youths ransacked the house of Mr Vivian Mbamba (26), whereafter he was knifed and hacked to death. Considerable damage was caused to the house. No arrests have yet been made and police investigations are continuing. It is not yet certain whether this incident was unrest-related.

"A black man, who has been identified as a comrade, fired two shots at an Inkatha member in Chesterville (Durban) yesterday, wounding the latter in the head. A man has been arrested in connection with this incident.

"A large group of railway workers from the South African Railway and Harbours Workers' Union went on strike in Johannesburg yesterday. The group gathered at a depot where the police requested them to disperse. They refused and the police fired tearsmoke in response to which the group eventually dispersed. Four of their representatives then went to the railway offices for discussions with the responsible officials. No injuries or arrests as a result of this incident were reported."

End report

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB240710 [Editorial Report]

CITIZEN on PFP

The page 6 editorial of Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 23 March comments on the PFP saying: "Here was a party which has gone through various transformations — from Progressive Party, to Progressive Reform Party to Progressive Federal Party — in the hope of extending its base and presenting itself as an alternative government. Yet it remains stuck in its constituencies of wealthy, mainly English-speaking voters. It has not broken through in working class areas nor has it been able to achieve any successes in the platteland [rural areas]." The PFP and the independents are "going for the same alliance" consisting of PFP, "New Nats and Independents." But the paper points out that "if the PFP can't win on its present policy, it won't win through an alliance with divided loyalties or a new party dominated by the Progs."

STAR Defends Role of Judges

Referring to the preliminary report on the South African legal system made by a mission from the International Commission of Jurists, the page 8 editorial of Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 23 March says: "'people's courts' have little to do with the lack of justice or otherwise in the established judicial system. They have everything to do with mob trial and inter-black vengeance. This emphasises the point that, were judges to abandon the supreme courts, mob law or a worse dictatorship would result." However, "'the Emergency' (now nearly two years old) has made a mockery of the law. It certainly is time that judges and the Bar spoke out, not on politics — but on principle. The reputation of our legal system depends on a quick end to detention without trial or, at the very least, access to the courts by detainees."

Election Not Following NP Plan

Former PFP leader Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert writes in the "My View" column on the same page that "this all-white election

is running out of control for P.W. Botha." "Things are getting just a bit too messy for his party organiser's mind. His style has always been to make quite sure a man is down before you kick him. Now a whole lot of folks are standing up independently and he has to kick them on the trot." Slabbert also says that Botha called the election for three reasons: "to pull the right-wing's teeth; get some internal National Party mandate to do a deal with the blacks, and to clear the way for his successor." However, the right-wing "cannot get its act together," and the emergence of Denis Worrall has "mortally wounded Chris Heunis's chances for the presidency." "An election for whites, as far as the Government is concerned, is a time for political spring cleaning for the dominant party."

BUSINESS DAY: NP Lacks Vision

On page 6 of Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 23 March Ken Owen writes that the NP "was once the champion of the underdog; it has become the defender of privilege whose important members occupy some of the richest communities in the country." "It was the party of soaring, if quite madcap, visions of a neatly engineered Southern Africa; now it is the party of petty offices and hand-me-down privileges, keeping control by a pervasive system of tape-recording conversations that an earlier generation would have found distasteful. The attempts to manufacture issues for this election have been pitiful. The old Boerehaat [anti-Afrikaner feeling] standby which pretends that a powerless English minority is being beastly to a powerful and more numerous ruling clan; it is just too ludicrous." "The sheer silliness is symptomatic of intellectual failure: the NP has sacrificed Verwoerdian apartheid to the CP, but it has been unable to devise an alternative vision."

CAPE TIMES on NP Lack of Credibility

A page 10 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 20 March notes that "the government's bluff has been called. Nationalist ministers are criss-crossing the country proclaiming to voters that the all-white election has been set because the government wants a new mandate for reform and 'powersharing' with blacks. But when the government is asked to spell out its game plan, inquiries are fobbed off with vague platitudes and obfuscations." "What it boils down to is that a government with no credibility or plan for the future is asking voters for a blank cheque."

SOWETAN: Homelands Diplomatic Embarrassment

"The four-year jail sentence imposed on French national Pierre-Andre Albertini (27) by the Bisho Supreme Court because he refused to give evidence in a terrorism trial, will embarrass both Ciskei and South Africa," says Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 23 March in its page 6 editorial. Countries like the Ciskei "are known to be under direct South African control," so "the negative results of the court case will reflect rather badly on South Africa. In such cases we believe even the courts should consider the diplomatic embarrassment that their actions might cause their countries. The worst that should happen now is for Albertini to be deported to his country. But with the type of hamhanded governing in these homelands, we doubt that will happen."

VADERLAND: U.S. Sanctions Pressure on Israel

Johannesburg *Die Vaderland* in Afrikaans on 20 March notes in a page 10 editorial that "it is disappointedly that we acknowledge that Israel must yield to U.S. pressure and join the ranks of other sanctioneers." "It is understood that after the Pollard spy incident that Jerusalem will not want to further aggravate its relationship with Washington. So as happens often to us, relationships with South Africa are placed on the altar as a peace offering."

RAPPORT on Pace of Reform

A page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *Rapport* in Afrikaans on 22 March comments on the pace of reform saying that even the NP is uncertain about how fast to take its reform. "The NP does not always have the ideological clarity as to how to expand a democracy. This is because it is entering an unknown area. But it will have to continue searching for that clarity, and the 'easy' solutions of the independents may even serve as a catalyst to spur on the NP. The independents are verbalizing a tendency in the country to be more hasty about the how and when of reform. It should therefore be a challenge for the NP to try to be the one to follow through with reform at the appropriate speed."

Mischke on PFP Minority Veto

Anne-Marie Mischke writes on page 11 that: "If the group is the cornerstone of the NP policy, then the individual is the cornerstone of the PFP policy." Mischke asks "what protection does the PFP offer the minorities, or even in the PFP idiom, the members of the minority groups? Especially if the PFP minority veto is to be abolished from its constitutional proposals. Do the PFP proposals ultimately not amount to black majority government?" Chairman of the PFP Federal Council Ken Andrew explains that the problem with the minority veto is that "many people will regard it as a white veto which will make change impossible. It was not intended to be so but people's perceptions are important."

BEELD on PFP Security Disagreements

A page 8 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 23 March comments on the division emerging within the PFP whereby the finance spokesman, Harry Schwarz believes that a PFP government will not allow a communist party to participate in the political process unless it first renounces violence. On the other hand, the law and order spokesman, Helen Suzman "has no qualms about accepting the SACP in the political process as long as it is not found guilty of violent acts." "This division in the PFP about basic security matters arouses great concern. What can be more basic than unleashing the violence of the Communist Party in the already explosive South Africa?"

NAMIBIAN on Public Holidays

"Namibians, who have been 'ruled' by a government claiming to be virtually autonomous, since June 1985, are compelled, in 1987, to celebrate or commemorate South African public holidays," notes Windhoek *The Namibian* in English on 20 March in its page 10 editorial. "This ludicrous situation serves to illustrate once again, the minimal amount of autonomy of the so-called interim government." "Those persons or instances opposed to the continued imposition of South African public holidays in Namibia, should, as a gesture of protest, work on days such as Republic Day. On this day Namibians have nothing to commemorate but their chains."

Lister on Resolution 435

On page 11 Gwen Lister comments in the "Political Perspective" column on the possibility of President P.W. Botha declaring the implementation of the United Nations settlement plan for Namibia. But a final refusal by South Africa to "cast aside Resolution 435" may well "reverse the presently calm situation within the country." It could also "spell increased ostracism by the international community, probably in the form of an increased sanctions drive."

SWAZILAND

Police Confirm January Plot To Kill Dlamini

MB240759 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 24 Mar 87 p 1

[By Zandile Dlamini]

[Text] The Head of the Criminal Investigations Department [CID], Mr Mgwembe Dlamini, has confirmed there had been a plot to assassinate the Prime Minister, Mr Sotsha Dlamini, and other prominent Swazis.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr Dan Dlamini, and the Head of CID, said yesterday the matter was being investigated. No arrests had been made.

The Head of the CID said police learnt of the assassination plot on January 12, following a report by Mozambican citizen who was held in prison pending deportation.

Press reports at the weekend said the plot involved a planned escape by the Mozambican citizen whose mission was to relay a message from another prisoner, described as a former high-ranking Swazi official, to certain persons in Maputo.

The purpose of the mission of the escaped prisoner was to instruct certain people in Maputo to carry out the act of assassinating the Prime Minister and other prominent Swazis.

According to press reports, the Mozambican had agreed to the plan, but changed his mind about the assignment because he was afraid to return to Mozambique where he was wanted for criminal offences.

The Mozambican then reported the plot to the Swazi authorities, hoping by so doing he would earn himself some clemency.

The Acting Commissioner of Prisons, Mr D.D. Mkhonta, denied any knowledge of this story.

He said a person in his position would have known about this issue if it was true.

The Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr Paul Shabangu, said the Prime Minister's Office had no comment on this matter.

ZAMBIA

USSR's Gilashvili Pledges Assistance to Kaunda

MB231228 Dakar PANA in English 1340 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Lusaka, 23 March (ZANA/PANA) — The Soviet Vice-President [tittle as received] Pavel Gilashvili has been in Zambia since Tuesday, 17 March, leading a Soviet parliamentary delegation on a tour of southern Africa to express solidarity with Frontline States and exchange views on the political situation in the region.

The Soviet delegation is the highest ranking team to visit Zambia since President [title as received] Gorbachev assumed power.

President Kaunda also commended the Soviet Union for its unflinching support to the liberation movements in the region.

Gilashvili told President Kaunda at State House that the Soviet Union was restructuring its policies at home and abroad and this was one of the reasons for visiting the southern African region.

He pledged his country's continued assistance in various fields to Zambia and the liberation movements.

The delegation also got a briefing about the situation in the region from the party secretary general, Grey Zulu when they called on him at his office.

Zulu outlined how the Boers in South Africa first promised to grant Namibia her independence but later changed and brought in the linkage issue of the Cuban troops in Angola.